PHILATELIC LINCOLNIANA:
Panel of Nancy Hanks Lincoln Stamp

DRAWER 21

STAMPS: LINCOLN

71.2009.085.05620

Philately

Proposed Nancy Hanks Lincoln Stamp

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

From the files of the

Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

December 17, 1935

Mr. Paul Brown
Indiana Lincoln Union
State House
Indianapolis, Indiana

My dear Mr. Brown:

It has been a long time since I have had occasion to correspond with you but a little matter has come to my attention which I think you might be able to sponsor with the assistance of Mr. Leiber.

It has been suggested by some one here, possibly by Mr. Hall, that at the time of the dedication of the Nancy Hanks Park we make some effort to have a special sourenir postage stamp issued by the Government. It has occurred to us that the very fine mother and son portrait by Bracker which has had universal acceptance, would make a very fine theme for this memorial stamp.

Enclosed you will please find a print reduced to somewhat the size that might be used and I trust it will be convenient for you to take it up with Mr. Leiber and get his reaction toward such a project.

Could you advise us whether or not the date for the dedication of the Nancy Hanks Park has been established and if so, when?

Very truly yours,

LAW:LH
Enc.

Director

5/13/39

Nancy Hanks Stamp Sought.

Nancy Hanks Lincoln and her son Abraham, a picture inspired by President Lincoln's repeated declaration, "All that I am or ever hope to be I owe to my angel mother." The picture is the work of M. Leone Bracher. (Published by courtesy of Lincoln Life Institute.)

[Special to The Indianapolis Star.]

Lincoln City, Ind., May 13.—Kentucky and Indiana stamp collectors have united in a plea for a new postage stamp issue in honor of Nancy Hanks Lincoln that will commemorate Mother's day for the years ahead.

"She was the mother of the nation's greatest servant," says Maj. Guy W. A. Camp, Boonville, World War veteran and philatelic specialist. He is a former head of the New York Stamp Club, of which President Roosevelt and Postmaster General Farley's sons are members.

At the recent annual convention of the stamp clubs of Kentucky, Indiana and Tennessee in Evansville, Dr. Victor Jordan, president of the Evansville Stamp Society, fostered discussion among the 33 stamp clubs toward bringing about the issuance of a Nancy Hanks Lincoln Mother's day stamp.

"President Lincoln's immortal utterance, 'All that I am or ever hope to be, I owe to my angel mother,' ranks among the sublime tributes to motherhood," says Col. George J. Frerichs, Louisville (Ky.) stamp collector. He points out that the eternal tribute of an unforgetable son was made by Abraham Lincoln years before he attained the presidency.

Nancy Hanks Lincoln was born in Virginia Feb. 4, 1774; moved to Kentucky when 3 years old; married Thomas Lincoln June 17, 1806; moved to Indiana, 1816; died of backwoods malaria, Oct. 5, 1818, declaring, "I am going away from you, Abraham, and I shall not return. I know you will be a good boy and be kind to your sister and your father."

At the Evansville meeting philatelists concluded to give wide publicity to the move for a Nancy Hanks Lincoln Mother's day stamp. They seek the enlistment of historical societies, women's clubs and memorial groups throughout Indiana and the nation toward effecting such a stamp's realization by Mother's day of 1943, 125 years after the death of President Lincoln's mother.

Commemoration of Mother's Day by Issuance Of Nancy Hanks Lincoln Postal Stamp Urged

5/13/39

Abraham Lincoln and his mother, Nancy Hanks Lincoln.—(Courtesy Lincoln Life Institute).

Ind. Courier Press

Philatelists of Tri-State Clubs Point Out Martyr President Laid Success to Mother

By MONTE M. KATTERJOHN

1939

LINCOLN CITY, Ind., May 13.—Kentucky and Indiana stamp collectors have united in a plea for a new postage stamp in honor of Nancy Hanks Lincoln that will commemorate Mother's Day for the years ahead. "She was the mother of the nation's greatest servant," says Major Guy W. A. Camp, Boonville, World War veteran and philatelic specialist. He is a former head of the New York Stamp Club of which the sons of President Roosevelt and Postmaster General Farley are members.

At the recent annual convention of the stamp clubs of Kentucky, Indiana and Tennessee, in Evansville, in late April, Dr. Victor Jordan, president of the host club, the Evansville Stamp Society, featured discussion among the 33 stamp clubs toward bringing about the issuance of a Nancy Hanks Lincoln Mother's Day stamp.

"President Lincoln's immortal utterance, 'All that I am or hope to be, I owe to my angel mother,' ranks among the sublime tributes to motherhood," says Colonel George Frerichs, Louisville, Ky., stamp collector, who turns his hobby toward historic associations to capture philatelic awards.

He points out that the eternal tribute to an unforgetful son was made by Abraham Lincoln years before he attained the presidency, and that the blessed image of his devotion, Nancy Hanks Lincoln, should be issued "In Memory and in Honor of the Mothers of America."

Nancy Hanks Lincoln was born in Virginia, Feb. 4, 1774; moved to Kentucky when 3; married Thomas Lincoln June 17, 1806; was the mother of two children, Sarah and Abraham Lincoln; moved to Indiana, 1816, and died of backwoods malaria, Oct. 5, 1818, declaring, "I am going away from you, Abraham, and I shall not return. I know you will be a good boy, and be kind to your sister and father."

Indiana has solemnly hallowed her graveside on a knoll of the original Thomas Lincoln Hoosier farmsite here.

Its 80 acres have been increased by 1100 acres of state-maintained grounds, and they comprise Nancy Hanks Lincoln Memorial Park.

Stamp collectors propose to circulate petitions here for the signatures of all who make the pilgrimage to her graveside shrine.

At the recent three-state meeting in Evansville, philatelists concluded to give wide publicity to the move for a Nancy Hanks Lincoln Mother's Day stamp, and seek the enlistment of historical societies, women's club and memorial groups throughout Indiana and the nation toward effecting such a stamp's realization by Mother's Day of 1943.

Suggestions for four other commemorative stamps were advanced at the Evansville convention.

Those cited for honor are Daniel Boone, "a famous American" of Pennsylvania and Kentucky, and the hero of pioneer history for boys; James Bethel Gresham, World War hero of Kentucky and Indiana, first to be killed in action overseas, Nov. 3, 1917; John Sevier, patriot and statesman of North Carolina and Tennessee, and of young Abraham Lincoln of Kentucky, Indiana and Illinois, pictured as a Hoosier rail-splitter in a pioneer Warrick County court at Boonville.

6/3/39

Campaign Under Way For Nancy Hanks Stamp

Lincoln City, Ind., June 3 (AP)—Indiana and Kentucky postage stamp collectors have begun a campaign for issuance of a commemorative stamp on Mother's Day, 1943, in honor of Nancy Hanks Lincoln, mother of President Abraham Lincoln. That year will be the 125th anniversary of her death.

11/18/39

COURIER AND PRESS

Nancy Hanks Lincoln Stamp Urged by Spencer Society

ROCKPORT, Ind., Nov. 18.—(Special)—A United States postage stamp bearing the likeness of Nancy Hanks Lincoln will be proposed for issuance on Mothers' Day in 1943 in commemoration of the one hundred and twenty-fifth anniversary of the death of Lincoln's mother.

The Spencer County Historical society has proposed the special stamp and will seek support of each state in the union to carry out the plan.

Hilbert Bennett, this city, has been named chairman of a committee to work on the project.

Mrs. Bess V. Ehrmann, Mayor Harvey T. Chinn and Mr. Bennett have been designated by the society's president, Miss Laura M. Wright, to attend erection of a marker at the Lincoln Flatboat Landing here. Young Abe Lincoln and Allen Gentry in 1828 made a trip to New Orleans from the site of the marker.

Miss Wright will shortly name a committee to work with representatives of historical groups of the eighth district toward erecting a $50,000 statue of Lincoln at a historical site in Spencer county.

12/7/39

Special Stamp Committee Headed by Hilbert Bennett

Left to right—Mrs. Bess Ehrmann, Mrs. Bess Woolfolk and Hilbert Bennett.

Evansville Courier 1939

LINCOLN CITY, Dec. 7.—(Special)—With the appointment of Hilbert Bennett, prominent Rockport business leader, as national chairman of the Lincoln's mother stamp committee to obtain from the U. S. postal department issuance of a Mother's day three-cent postage stamp for 1943 that will bear the likeness of Nancy Hanks Lincoln, the Spencer County Historical society has shaped plans that are to become national in scope.

Historical groups in the states of Virginia, Kentucky and Illinois will share in the organization movement that is to identify Indiana and Spencer county in particular with the life and death of Abraham Lincoln's Virginia-born and Kentucky-reared mother. The proposed stamp will commemorate the declaration of her Emancipator son who said: "All that I am or ever hope to be I owe to my angel mother." In 1943 she will have been dead 125 years.

Other members of the stamp committee are: Laura Mercy Wright, president of the Spencer County Historical society; Mrs. Elizabeth Gentry, secretary; Mrs. Mina Cook, vice president; Mrs. Bess Ehrmann, Lincoln author; and Carl Engelbrecht, superintendent Spencer county schools.

Nancy Hanks Lincoln died here October 5, 1818, and is buried on a knoll near the Lincoln cabin-site that has become a state-owned memorial park.

Action of the Spencer County Historical society in shaping its petition for the signatures of patriots of all ages will be made a part of the discussions of the Indiana history conference in Indianapolis Friday and Saturday.

First to sign the stamp petition was Mrs. Bess Woolfolk of Grandview. For 20 years she has placed a wreath of flowers on the grave of Nancy Hanks Lincoln every Memorial day, gathering the flowers from the tannery grounds where Abraham Lincoln worked in Grandview as a boy.

Stamp clubs of Kentucky have signified their desire to participate in the work of gathering signatures in Louisville and Lexington.

When three years old, Nancy Hanks moved with her family from Virginia to Kentucky, where, June 17, 1806, she married Thomas Lincoln. Ten years later, the Lincolns and their two children, Abraham and Sarah, moved to Indiana.

12/9/39

Spencer County Historical Society Plans Mothers' Day Stamp Drive

1929

[Special to The Indianapolis Star.]

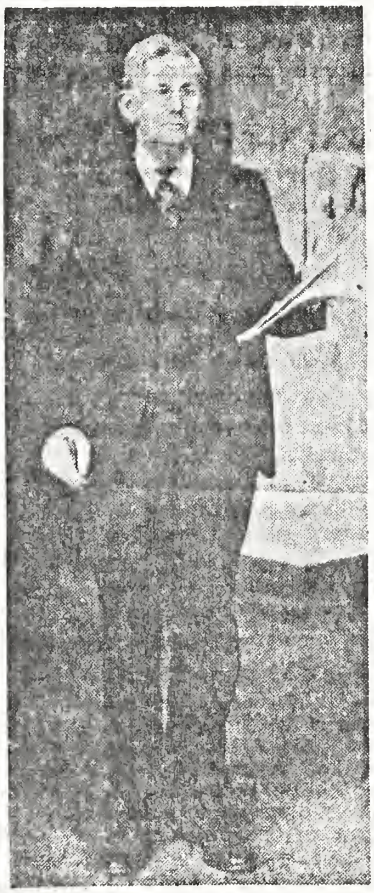
Lincoln City, Ind., Dec. 9.—With the appointment of Hilbert Bennett, prominent Rockport business and political leader as national chairman of the Lincoln's Mother Stamp Committee to obtain issuance of a Mother's day 3-cent postage stamp for 1943 that will bear the likeness of Nancy Hanks Lincoln, the Spencer County Historical Society has shaped plans that are to become national in scope.

Historical groups in Virginia, Kentucky and Illinois will share in the organization movement that is to identify Indiana and Spencer county in particular with the life, times and death of President Lincoln's Virginia-born and Kentucky-reared mother.

Other members of the stamp committee are: Laura Mercy Wright, president, Spencer County Historical Society; Mrs. Mina Cook, vice-president; Mrs. Elizabeth Gentry, secretary; Mrs. Bess Ehrmann, Lincoln author, and Carl Engelbrecht, Spencer county school superintendent.

Every boy and girl attending either grade or high school in Spencer county will be given the opportunity of signing the stamp petition.

First to sign the petition was Mrs. Bess Wolfolk of Grandview, Ind. For 20 years on every Memorial day she has placed fresh flowers on the grave of Nancy Hanks Lincoln, gathered from a Spencer county tannery where Lincoln worked as a boy. Often in winter, on the anniversary of the birth of Lincoln's mother, Feb. 4, 1774 she has visited the graveside here.



HILBERT BENNETT.

HOME TOWN ASKS STAMP TRIBUTE TO NANCY HANKS

Chicago Tribune
Jan. 7-1940

She Was the Mother of Abraham Lincoln.

Rockport, Ind., Jan. 6 [Special].—A movement has been started in this home community of Abraham Lincoln to induce the federal government to issue a Mothers' day stamp memorializing the civil war President's mother, Nancy Hanks Lincoln.

Petitions are being circulated by the Spencer County Historical society asking that the stamp be printed and circulated in 1943, the 125th anniversary of the death and burial of Mrs. Lincoln at nearby Lincoln City.

A leader in the movement and the first signer of the petition was Mrs. Bess Pedigo Woolfolk, who has vitited Nancy Hank's grave annually for 43 consecutive years. She placed flowers on the grave on 22 consecutive Decoration days.

Her First Visit.

Bess was a barefoot girl of 10 when she first visited the grave with her uncle Jim Pedigo. Her uncle, a great admirer of Lincoln, decided some one ought to improve the looks of the grave and that he might as well do it.

He strapped a hatchet to his belt, tucked a small picket fence under his arm, and started out on the 20 mile trip to Lincoln City from his home in the Lake Mill neighborhood of Spencer county. Bess, who had prevailed upon her mother to let her go along, trudged by his side.

They rode part of the long way in a buggy and a farm wagon, when passersby gave them lifts, but traveled much of the way on foot. When they finally reached the grave they found it overgrown with briars, weeds, and saplings.

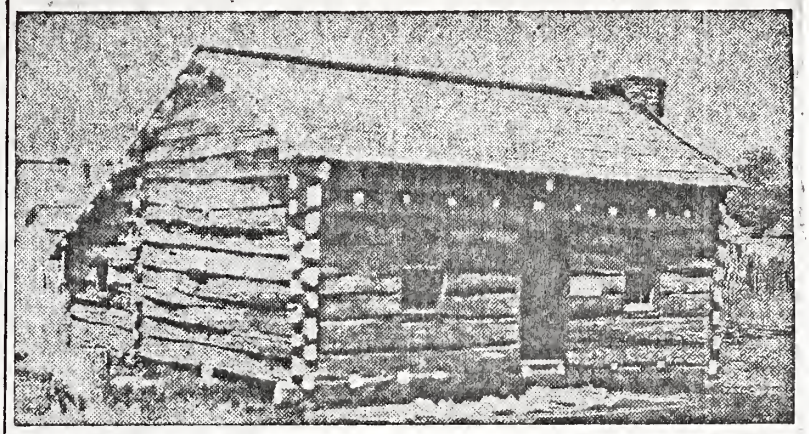
Tribute of Flowers.

With Bess helping, Uncle Jim went to work with his hatchet and cleared away the wild growth. Then they erected the frail picket fence about the plot and laid on the grave a little bunch of flowers—withered by then—which they had brought from home.

As they stood back and surveyed their work, Uncle Jim turned to the child and solemnly told her:

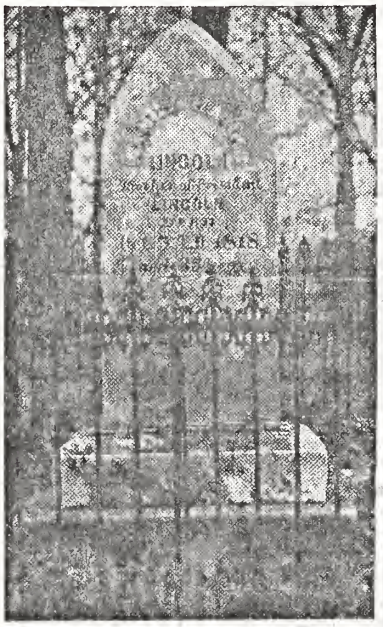
"Bess, the mother of one of the greatest men who ever lived lies buried here. Promise me that you will do all in your power to keep this grave in good condition and that you will place flowers on it as often as you can."

Nancy Hanks Lincoln Landmarks



Lincoln home in Spencer county, Indiana, citizens of which are now seeking to honor Nancy Hanks Lincoln with Mother's day stamp.

Mrs. Bess Woolfolk, who has visited grave of Abraham Lincoln's mother annually for 43 years.



Tombstone at grave of Nancy Hanks Lincoln in Lincoln City, Spencer county, Ind.

She Never Forgot.

The words made a profound impression on the little girl. Her promise was unnecessary, for she never forgot her uncle's plea. She did not have an opportunity to return to the grave in the years immediately following her first visit, but when she could she started the pilgrimage regularly, and hasn't missed making it since.

When the Spencer County Historical society adopted a resolution to circulate a petition seeking the issuance of a government stamp honoring Nancy Hanks, it was agreed that Bess Woolfolk should have the privilege of being the first signer.

It was in Spencer county that Abraham Lincoln's mother and his only sister are buried. Lincoln himself was reared here, spending the years from the age of 7 to 21 in this community.

His Flatboat Trip.

He left Rockport at 19 to make the famous flatboat trip to New Orleans, where he first saw a slave market and unconsciously conceived the foundation of the Emancipation Proclamation. Spencer county also was the place where he earned his first dollar, operating a ferry on the Ohio river at the mouth of old Anderson creek.

Among the liberty loving pioneers of this county the youthful Lincoln learned the lessons that molded his character and made him fit for gigantic possibilities he was destined to face.

Many members of the historical society here are descendants of those pioneers who lived with Lincoln. The president is Miss Laura Mercy Wright, who personally was acquainted with the Lincoln family.

Marker Is Erected.

The secretary is Mrs. Elizabeth Gentry, wife of a direct descendant of Allen Gentry, in whose employ Lincoln worked on the flatboat. The society recently erected a marker at the site of the landing from which the flatboat left.

Miss Mina Cook, another descendant of Spencer county pioneers, is publicity chairman of the society. Mrs. Bess V. Ehrman, writer and student of Lincolnia, is curator. Her great-grandparents lived not far from the Lincolns.

Hilbert Bennett, treasurer of the society, is national chairman of the stamp committee.

1/20/40

Rites Will Honor Lincoln's Mother

MRS. BESS WOOLFOLK.

156th Birthday Will Be Marked Feb. 4 in Spencer County.

Lincoln City, Ind., Jan. 20.—(Special)—On the site of the memorial that guards the grave of Nancy Hanks Lincoln, born in Virginia, Feb. 4, 1784, Mrs. Bess Woolfolk of Grandview will commemorate the 156th birthday of Abraham Lincoln's mother. She will represent the Spencer County Historical Society, whose members are petitioning for a Lincoln's mother 3-cent postage stamp to be issued to commemorate Mother's day in 1943.

From 1 to 2 o'clock, Sunday, Feb. 4, Mrs. Woolfolk will accept signatures of visitors to the Indiana shrine. Mrs. Woolfolk's grandfather, Samuel Hammond, knew Lincoln, and her uncle James Pedigo "fought" for him.

Sculptors, artists and newsreel photographers have written that they intend to participate in the ceremonies, when Mrs. Woolfolk, first to sign the stamp petition, will place a memorial of flowers on the grave, Hilbert Bennett, national chairman of the society's stamp committee, has announced.

In Spencer county, Carl J. Engelbrecht, school superintendent, has arranged for school pupils to sign the petition during an eight-day period from Feb. 4 to 12.

2/1/40

156th Birthday of Lincoln's Mother Will Be Observed

Grandview Woman To Accept Signatories on Stamp Petition Next Sunday

LINCOLN PARK, Feb. 1.—(Special)— On the memorial site of the State ground that guards the grave of Nancy Hanks Lincoln, born in Virginia February 4, 1784, Mrs. Bess Woolfolk, of Grandview, will commemorate the 156th birthday of Abraham Lincoln's mother. She will represent the Spencer County Historical society, whose members are asking by popular petition, that a Lincoln's Mother three-cent postage stamp be issued to commemorate Mothers Day in 1943

From 1 to 2 o'clock next Sunday, Mrs. Woolfolk will accept the signatures of other visitors to the Indiana shrine. Mrs. Woolfolk's grandfather, Samuel Hammond, a tanner, knew Lincoln when he was a boy. Her uncle James Pedigo "fought for Honest Abe."

"Sculptors, artists, authors and historians, and also the newsreel men, have written that they intend to participate in the brief ceremonies, when Mrs. Woolfolk, first to sign the stamp petition, will place a memorial of flowers on the heroic pioneer mother's grave," states Hilbert Bennett, national chairman of the Historical society's stamp committee.

Mrs. Bess Ehrman, public relations representative for the stamp committee, states that every member of the several state groups who attended the December meetings of the Indiana History conference at Indianapolis signed the stamp petition; that all the school teachers of Indiana are emulating the example of Bloomington, Ind., where the public school teaching staff not only gave their signatures but made it a subject for class discussion, and that shortly Mr. Bennett will make public the approving letters of the governors of the 48 states.

In Spencer county, Carl J. Engelbrecht, school superintendent, has arranged for all school pupils and students to sign the petition during the eight day interim, February 4 to 12, "when the anniversaries of the Lincolns, mother and son, are inspiring anew the hearts and minds of the world."

ACCIDENT, HEART ATTACK FATAL TO TWO MINERS

BENTON, Ill., Feb. 1.—(Special) Lester Smith of Christopher, top hand at the Bell and Zoller No. 2 mine at Zeigler, died at Zeigler hospital last night soon after being found unconscious by the railroad tracks. The coroner ruled Smith was fatally injured when caught between two coal cars.

Otto E. Jones of Zeigler, a miner at the same mine, suffered a heart attack while working and died last night soon after being hoisted up.

Abe Lincoln's Mother Suggested For Mother's Day Postage Stamp

National Jury Will Select Favored Likeness—Movement Sponsored by Spencer County Historical Society.

2-4-40 Indianapolis Star

By MONTE M. KATTERJOHN.

THE inspired visions of the masters of art have been summoned for a postage stamp portrait of the mother of Abraham Lincoln, whom the Spencer County Historical Society seeks to honor in 1943 with a Mother's day 3-cent postage stamp. They want her name to become known to every boy and girl in America, her humble influence for rugged goodness to grow with the years. She has been the "forgotten woman" of history, literature and art, they declare.

The best known of the few paintings of Lincoln's mother painted by Leone Bracker. (Copyright, 1934, by Lincoln National Life Insurance Company.)

Few sculptors and painters have attempted to render a likeness of the heroic pioneer figure —Nancy Hanks Lincoln, "who made history, yet has been treated so badly by history," states Col. Richard Lieber, president of the Indiana Lincoln Union. He says "no encyclopedia, no reference book of any kind so much as mentions the name of Nancy Hanks."

Nor can there be found as many as a half-dozen paintings, and only a few sketches or drawings of the mother "who cradled a nation's fate in her arms."

Today, Sunday, is her birthday —the 156th anniversary of her berth in Virginia, Feb. 4, 1784. She died here 122 years ago and has since been delineated in but one canvas, before her Hoosier log-cabin hearth, called "The Boy Lincoln and His Mother," by M. Leone Bracher of New York city, in 1934.

The mother of Lincoln, by Avard Fairbanks, at the University of Michigan.

Many Proposals Received.

An inspired piece of sculpture by Avard Fairbanks of the Institute of Fine Arts, University of Michigan, called "Mother of Lincoln," is another face record. He is also sculptor of "The Pioneer Mother" erected at Vancouver, Wash.

Photographs of many statues erected at points over the United States, Oklahoma to Oregon, representing pioneer mothers, are being received by the historical society as stamp proposals. The sculptor Bryant Baker's "The Pioneer Woman" is among them. His Buffalo (N. Y.) statue of "Lincoln, the Young Man," has been acclaimed outstanding.

George H. Honig, Rockport sculptor, has produced a Nancy Hanks doll into which he has woven a semblance of Abe's expression into the face of Nancy Hanks Lincoln. But he is now at work on a new bust-size figure of the sainted woman.

adelphia, Washington, Chicago, Indianapolis, St. Louis, Denver, Los Angeles and other cities.

The final exhibition will be held in Washington, for the President of the United States, the postmaster general and for the members of the Houses of Representatives and the Senate. At that time the art jury chairman will announce the favored design.

Will Circulate Petition.

Meanwhile, Hilbert Bennett of Rockport, national chairman of the society's stamp committee, announces they will secure the petition signatures of every man, woman and child living in Spencer county "where everyone is still neighbors of the Lincolns," he says. "We want the folks of Spencer county to know Nancy

mann and Laura Mercy Wright, the present society head.

Knew Both Wives.

Mrs. Wright is a great- great-granddaughter of Daniel Grass, second landowner in Spencer county, 1807. "He knew both wives of Tom Lincoln," she says. Mrs. Wright believes that Abraham Lincoln's statement, "Whatever in life I may be, I owe io my angel mother," will live in the world-heart when even the Gettysburg address is forgotten; that it will cause Nancy Hanks Lincoln to become immortalized in paintings that will live as long as the famed canvases of the old masters, seen today on the walls of the revered chapels and cathedrals of Europe.

Mrs. Grace Huffman Pattie, a previous president of the society, is a descendant of Peter Razor who settled in Spencer county the same year the Lincolns came from Kentucky, 1816. She has portrayed the role of Nancy Hanks Lincoln in much of the impressive pageantry staged in the shaded open theater overlooking the Ohio river at Rockport. Episodes in the life of Abe as a flatboatman, written by Mrs. Bess Ehrmann, another former society president, are re-enacted.

Mrs. Pattie likes best the description of Nancy Hanks Lincoln given by Dr. William E. Barton, a minister-historian of Oak Park, Ill., who devoted more than 20 years to research and writing on the life, soul and paternity of Abraham Lincoln. "Nancy Hanks was about 23 when she married

slender, she early showed an indication to stoop and seemed to have a tendency toward consumption," Dr. Barton visualized.

Carl Sandburg's folklore view is somewhat similar: "Tom Lincoln had seen this particular Nancy Hanks, and noticed that she was shrewd and dark and lonesome; he had seen her at preachings in cabins when her face stood out in black against the firelights or the burning logs. He knew she believed in God, in the Bible, in mankind, in the past and future, in babies, people, animals, flowers, fishes, in foundations and roofs, in time and the eternities outside of time; she was a believer, keeping in silence behind her gray eyes more beliefs than she spoke. She knew . . . so much of what she believed was yonder—always yonder. Every day came scrubbing, washing, patching, fixing. There was so little time to sing about the glory she believed in. It was always yonder. . . ."

Married in Kentucky.

Dr. Barton's research found that Nancy Hank had been living in Kentucky for years (not North Carolina) when she became the June bride of Thomas Lincoln. They were married by the Rev. Jesse Head of the Methodist church, in the cabin of Richard Berry, close to Beechland, in Washington county, Kentucky, June 12, 1806.

Their first child was a daughter, Sarah, born Feb. 10, 1807.

Aunt Peggy Walters, a neighbor

County Study in Research.

Temporarily it all is turning Spencer county into a research laboratory of the fine arts to find the just right portrait of a mother whom the Lincoln country poet, Blanche Hammond Camp says, "had the wisdom of the sages without the world's acclaim." Sculptors, painters and others of the art world are writing, calling by long distance, and some have visited Rockport to learn how the portrait for the stamp will be selected. Their interest has thrilled the members of the historical society's stamp committee; overwhelmed them somewhat with the importance of the decisions they believe would be easy to make. They are deluged with photographs of inspired paintings, of sculptured heads, etchings and designs for "the greatest of pioneer American mothers"—portraits that reflect such idealism, character and courage commemorative of Nancy Hanks Lincoln and Mother's day, that only a competent jury of distinguished art judges and historians could decide which one would be most treasured as the mother of Lincoln.

The society's stamp petition, now going into circulation among the schools of all the 48 states, asks that the design "embody the likeness of the face or head or some representation of Nancy Hanks Lincoln, mother of the immortal Abraham Lincoln."

National Jury to Judge.

Due to the national scope of the bit of postage, a national jury of seven judges will be announced on Mother's day of this year, Sunday, May 12. Four recognized figures of the art world, also an eminent Lincoln historian, an outstanding educator or book publisher and the editor of some national woman's magazine will be named to make the final decisions of recommendation to the Post Office Department.

Two full years—from May, 1940, to May, 1942—will be allotted to the further accumulation of Nancy Hanks Lincoln portraits. Submission will be freely open to any American artist, without offer of reward. During 1941 and 1942 the hundreds of paintings and pieces of sculpture will be exhibited in schools and art museums in New York, Phil-

Hanks Lincoln as a mother who washed Abe's face and hands, combed his hair, held his face between her hands, smacked him with a kiss on the mouth and sent him to school." Mr. Bennett says that is the way the descendants of Spencer county's pioneers have been told about the mother and son by their Kentucky and Indiana forefathers.

The five presidents of the Spencer County Historical Society since its formation, 1915, have been descendants of pioneer settlers who "knew Lincoln." These include Allen J. Payton, Grace Huffman Pattie, Taylor C. Bayes (recently deceased), Bess V. Ehr-

Tom Lincoln," Dr. Barton found. "She was above the usual height, slender, and weighed about 130 pounds. She was a brunette. Her hair was dark brown, almost black, and her skin was dark. Her eyes were small and gray. She had a prominent forehead, which was remarked by her relatives and regarded by them as an indication of superior mentality. Her face was thin, sharp and angular. Her disposition was cheerful; but this mood alternated with one of melancholy, and all who remembered her spoke of the habitual sadness of her features in repose. She was amiable, friendly and kind. Tall and

area, said they named "th' next 'un (a boy baby, born Feb. 12, 1809) Abraham, after his grandpappy."

The late Albert J. Beveridge, Indiana greatest Lincoln historian, checked all records concerning the mother of Lincoln and wrote: "She was dim as the dream of a shifting mirage. Her face and figure waver through the mists of time and rumor. Those who knew her disagree even as to the color of her eyes, the shade of her hair, her physical build and height."

In his old age Dennis Hanks, a nephew, said: "Abe's mother was keen, shrewd, smart, highly intellectual by nature. Her memory was strong, her judgment accurate." Nathaniel Grigsby, whose descendants still reside in Spencer county, left the record that "Lincoln's mother was a woman of great good sense and morality. Other Kentucky and Hoosier neighbors agreed she was "kind and affectionate."

Today Mrs. Bess Woolfolk of Grandview, Ind., representing the Spencer County Historical Society, will place a memorial wreath on the grave of Lincoln's mother. The rites will be captured by newsreel photographers, leagued with the historical group to further the Mother's day stamp.

3/25/40

Lack of Picture of Lincoln's Mother Hampers Honoring Her With Stamp

Rockport, Ind., March 25.—(Special)—Backers of a movement to have the portrait of Abraham Lincoln's mother placed on a stamp find themselves slightly handicapped by the fact that there are no known portraits of Nancy Hanks Lincoln in existence.

To circumvent this lack of vital material, the Spencer County Historical Society, sponsor of the movement, is asking various publications to nominate a jury of artists and sculptors to work together in making up a synthetic portrait of the famous mother.

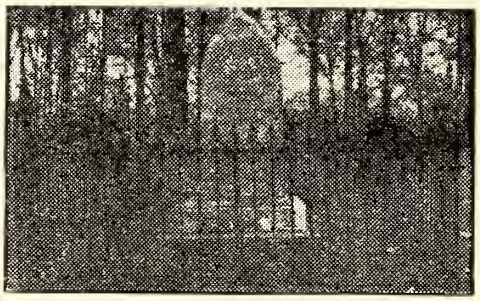
"To get a correct vision of this pioneer mother is of vital importance," commented Hilbert Bennett chairman of the commemorative stamp committee. "It will stand as a likeness of this sainted mother of an immortal as long as motherhood endures. As the present material representation of Christ is the vision of some artist of former years, so will this selection of the likeness of Nancy Hanks Lincoln endure forever."

9

Spencer County Historical Society

DOWN IN THE LINCOLN COUNTRY OF INDIANA

East End Lincoln Pioneer Village, Rockport



Grave of Nancy Hanks Lincoln, Spencer Co.

Home of the Lincolns in Spencer County

ROCKPORT, INDIANA

April 23rd, 1940.

Dr. Louis A. Warren,
c/o The Lincoln Natl. Life Ins. Co.,
Ft. Wayne, Ind.

Dear Sir:

In answer to the enclosed letter, a copy of which went to more than a hundred newspapers and magazines throughout the U.S.A., your name has been given to the Spencer County Historical Society by many of those papers as being most highly qualified to serve as one of the judges on an Art Jury to determine the best likeness or representation of Nancy Hanks Lincoln that has been or that will be submitted to the Spencer County Historical Society to be used on a special Mother's Day stamp to be printed and circulated, memorializing Nancy Hanks Lincoln, the mother of the immortal Abraham Lincoln.

We hope to enlist a Jury of about seven people, consisting of artists, editors and historians. The work will have to be done by mail. It will be a gratuitous service as there are no funds with which to pay for such service.

We will be highly honored and we will deeply appreciate having you serve as one of the judges in this most unusual movement. Please let us know at once if you will assist our society in this great undertaking by giving us the benefit of your unquestioned qualifications when we submit such inspired work of art to you as may come into our hands.

When the Jury is completed we will advise you of its full membership.

OFFICERS
LAURA MERCY WRIGHT, President
ELIZABETH GENTRY, Secretary
BESS V. EHRMANN, Curator
MRS. MINA COOK, Publicity Chairman

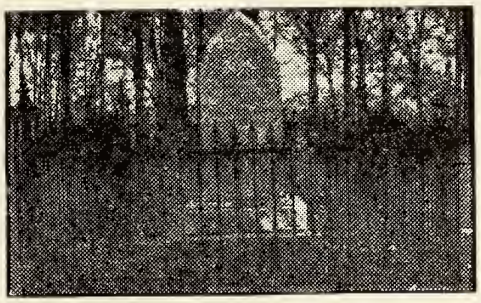
HILBERT BENNETT
National Chairman Stamp Committee

MEMBERS OF STAMP COMMITTEE
CARL J. ENGELBRECHT
OTIS I. BROONER
BESS WOOLFOLK
DAMON LLOYD
ALL OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

Spencer County Historical Society

DOWN IN THE LINCOLN COUNTRY OF INDIANA

East End Lincoln Pioneer Village, Rockport



Grave of Nancy Hanks Lincoln, Spencer Co.

ROCKPORT, INDIANA

Home of the Lincolns in Spencer County

Dr. Louis A. Warren,
Ft. Wayne, Ind.

I am enclosing a small leaflet that gives some idea of what our society is sponsoring; also enclosed is a copy of the petition which is being circulated in all parts of the United States.

Hoping that we may have your most valuable assistance in this undertaking, and thanking you for any consideration that you may give the matter, I am

Most sincerely yours,

Hilbert Bennett
Chairman Stamp Committee,
Spencer County Historical Society.

2

April 26, 1940

Mr. Hilbert Bennett
Spencer County Historical Society
Rockport, Indiana

Dear Mr. Bennett:

Just back from a speaking itinerary I find your letter before me referring to the art committee which will judge the most available and appropriate study for a Lincoln stamp portraying the mother of the President.

It will give me much pleasure to serve on this committee as I am in full agreement with the idea of issuing a memorial stamp on Mother's Day in 1943.

Yours very truly,

LAW:MB

Director

Spencer County Historical Society

July 10, 1940

Mr. Hilbert Bennett
Spencer County Historical Society
Rockport, Ind.

My dear Mr. Bennett:

Having just had occasion to check up on my correspondence, I find a letter from you dated April 23, 1940 in which you state that a jury of about seven people had been selected to work on the Nancy Hanks Lincoln stamp.

I wonder if you would be willing to send me the names of the other members of the jury who are to serve on this committee.

Very truly yours,

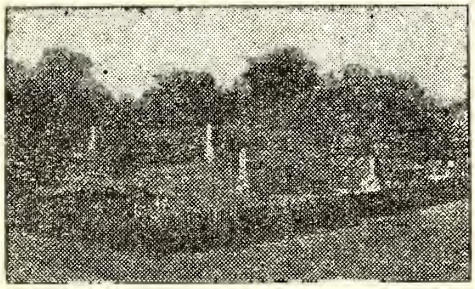
LAW;EB

Director

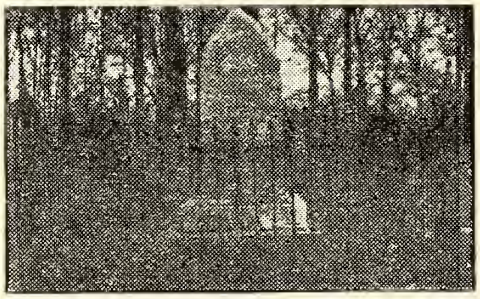
2

Spencer County Historical Society

DOWN IN THE LINCOLN COUNTRY OF INDIANA



East End Lincoln Pioneer Village, Rockport



Grave of Nancy Hanks Lincoln, Spencer Co.

ROCKPORT, INDIANA

Home of the Lincolns in Spencer County

July 21st 1940

Dr. Louis A. Warren
Fort Wayne, Ind.

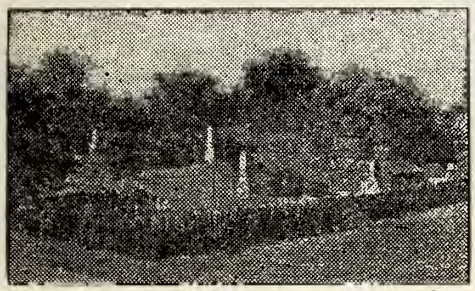
My dear Dr. Warren:

Mr. Hilbert Bennett has asked me to reply to your letter of a week ago. He has been so very busy that he has called on me to assist him in answering a number of letters.

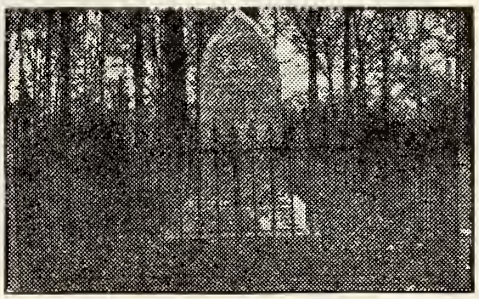
Our Spencer County Historical Society selected seven of the names sent to us by the leading newspapers and magazines in the United States to serve on a National Jury. This group to

Spencer County Historical Society

DOWN IN THE LINCOLN COUNTRY OF INDIANA



East End Lincoln Pioneer Village, Rockport



Grave of Nancy Hanks Lincoln, Spencer Co.

Home of the Lincolns in Spencer County

ROCKPORT, INDIANA

(2.)

decide which artists picture or other representation should be placed on a stamp to honor Nancy Hanks Lincoln.

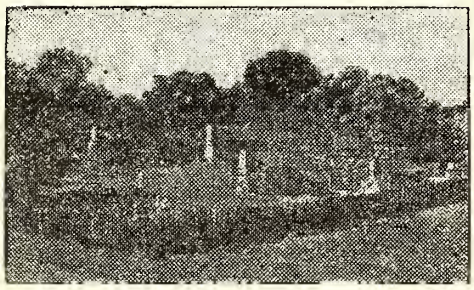
As you know your name was sent to us by numerous publications and we asked you to be Chairman of the National Jury. We were so pleased when you accepted this place on the committee.

Letters were sent to several noted artists and Lincoln students but so far we have not had replies from any of the artists.

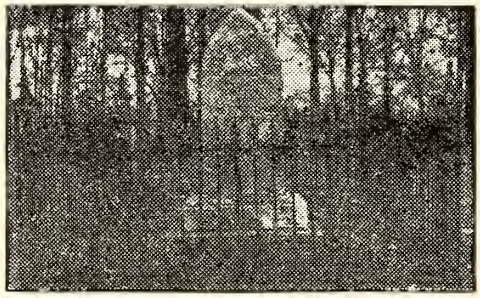
Mr. Paul Angle of Springfield Illinois agreed to be one of

Spencer County Historical Society

DOWN IN THE LINCOLN COUNTRY OF INDIANA



East End Lincoln Pioneer Village, Rockport



Grave of Nancy Hanks Lincoln, Spencer Co.

Home of the Lincolns in Spencer County

ROCKPORT, INDIANA

(3.)

the judges if the work did not require too much time. We were most pleased to have him one of the group.

The artists whom we have not heard from are as follows— Howard Chandler Christy, Paul Manship, Grant Wood, Gertrude Vanderbilt Whitney and Gutzon Borglum.

We expect to write each one of these again.

Have you any suggestions to make before we write these letters.

Mr. Bennett and I appreciate the interest you and Mr. Stultz

OFFICERS
LAURA MERCY WRIGHT, President
ELIZABETH GENTRY, Secretary
BESS V. EHRMANN, Curator
MRS. MINA COOK, Publicity Chairman

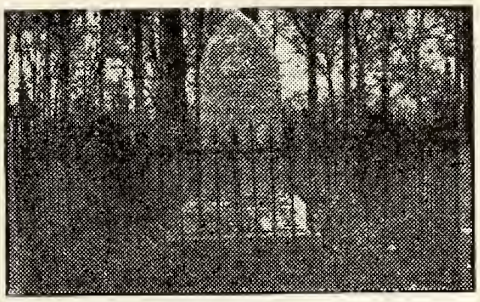
HILBERT BENNETT
National Chairman Stamp Committee

MEMBERS OF STAMP COMMITTEE
CARL J. ENGELBRECHT
OTIS I. BROONER
BESS WOOLFOLK
DAMON LLOYD
ALL OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

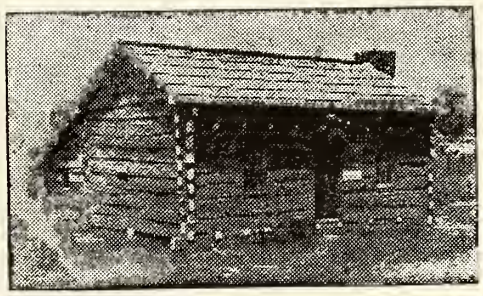
Spencer County Historical Society

DOWN IN THE LINCOLN COUNTRY OF INDIANA

East End Lincoln Pioneer Village, Rockport



Grave of Nancy Hanks Lincoln, Spencer Co.



Home of the Lincolns in Spencer County

ROCKPORT, INDIANA

(4.)

have taken in this worth while matter and we value your suggestions.

We now have over 150,000 names on our petitions and more coming in every week.

With kind wishes to you and yours

I am
Sincerely
Bess V. Ehrmann

July 31, 1940

Mrs. Bess V. Ehrmann
Rockport, Ind.

My dear Mrs. Ehrmann:

Thank you very much for your reply to my letter directed to Mr. Bennett, with respect to your writing certain artists which you mention, Mr. Christy, Mr. Manship, Mr. Wood, Mrs. Whitney and Mr. Borglum. I am only personally acquainted with Mr. Manship and I think it would pay to write him again.

I doubt very seriously whether Mr. Borglum would be available as he is so very much wrapped up in his project of the Black Hills.

It would be a pleasure indeed to serve your group in any way possible.

Very truly yours,

LAW:EB

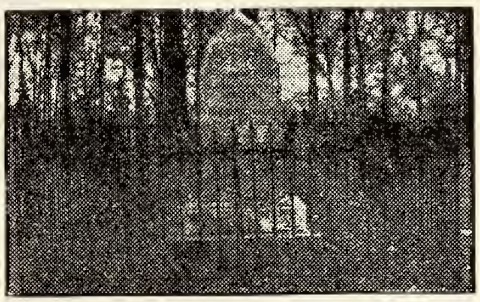
Director

3

Spencer County Historical Society

DOWN IN THE LINCOLN COUNTRY OF INDIANA

East End Lincoln Pioneer Village, Rockport



Grave of Nancy Hanks Lincoln, Spencer Co.

Home of the Lincolns in Spencer County

ROCKPORT, INDIANA

October 4" 1940.

Dr. Louis A. Warren
Ft. Wayne
Indiana

Greetings Dr. Warren:

I hope you lived through the hot summer days and secured some rest from your many duties.

I am writing this to ask a favor of you. You told me that you know Paul Manship and we can't seem to get him to reply to our letters.

We want him for one of our Judges when the time

comes to select the best representation for our Nancy Hanks Lincoln stamp.

Would you, as Chairman of the committee, write him a letter and urge him to serve on the committee.

We wish the best known people in our country on this list of judges.

Howard Chandler Christy has agreed to be one of the judges, also Carl Sandburg and Paul Angle. You have honored us by being Chairman and that makes four. We want three others.

By waiting until 1943 to have the stamp issued we have time to secure a million signers to our petition and that means that many persons have learned about Nancy Hanks Lincoln, mother of our greatest American.

One other thing I wish to ask you. What are your reasons for thinking that the book which Crawford lent to Lincoln was Ramsey's Life of Washington?

Don't forget that you promised to send us a copy of it sometime for our village.

Please give my regards to your family and with many kind wishes for you

I am

Sincerely

Bess H. Ehrmann

P.S. We have over 150,000 names on our petitions now.

If you know any artists urge them to send us their conceptions of Nancy Hanks Lincoln. We have a few portraits now, but want many. Such an exhibit will help the cause.

October 10, 1940

Miss Bess V. Ehrmann,
Curator
Spencer County Historical Society
Rockport, Ind.

My dear Miss Ehrmann:

We will be pleased indeed to write to Mr. Manship and try to persuade him to accept a place on the stamp committee and I believe he will be willing to do so.

You will please find enclosed a bulletin which discusses Ramsey's Life of Washington and which puts forth our argument for believing that it was Ramsey's instead of Weems' that was injured and for which Abraham Lincoln worked for Crawford.

We have been looking ever since I returned for a copy of Ramsey's Washington and as soon as we can find one we will most certainly send one to you. They are quite scarce.

We trust you will have good success with your stamp venture and I sincerely hope that it may be a successful project.

Very truly yours,

LAW:EB
Enc.

Director

October 25, 1940

Mrs. Calder Ehrman
Rockport, Ind.

My dear Mrs. Ehrman:

I have just received a letter from Paul Manship agreeing to accept a place on the committee on the condition that any advice he might have could be submitted by mail from New York.

I hope this will please you.

Very truly yours,

LAW:EB

Director

Rockport Ind.
October 27 "40

Dr. Louis A. Warren
Fort Wayne, Ind.

My dear Dr. Warren:

Mr. Bennett asked me to write you again and tell you that we had such a fine letter from Gutzon Borglum and he is delighted to act as one of our judges for the Nancy Hanks Lincoln stamp, when the time comes to select the best representation.

We have not yet heard from Mr. Manship or two others but up to date this is the list —

Chairman — (1) Dr. Louis A. Warren
(2) Mr. Carl Sandburg
Harbert, Michigan
(3) Mr. Paul Angle
Springfield, Illinois

(4.) Mr. Howard Chandler Christy
1 West 67th St.
New York, N. Y.

(5) Mr. Gutzon Borglum
National Memorial Commission
Keystone
South Dakota.

you and President Stultz have offered to assist us in every way and we do appreciate your assistance and advice.

The reason I give the address of the judges who have agreed to be on the National Art Jury is because I think you'll wish to write each one of them.

I feel sure that a letter coming from the Chairman of the Committee will be most pleasing to each judge.

We'll send you the names of the others as soon

as we hear from them.

Kindest regards to you and your family.

Sincerely,

Russ V. Ehrmann

Rockport, Indiana
October 28" 1940

Dr. Louis A. Warren
Ft. Wayne, Indiana.

My dear Dr. Warren:

Your letter came today after mine had been mailed.

Mr. Burnett and I are so pleased that you secured Mr. Paul Manship's consent to be on our National Judges Committee for the Nancy Hanks stamp portrait.

We certainly have a most distinguished group of people and it will give our cause much publicity when we are ready to give the names to the papers.

Thanking you for your kindness in writing to Mr. Manship and with all kind wishes

I am
Sincerely
Bess V. Ehrmann

October 30, 1940

Mrs. Bess V. Ehrmann
Rockport, Indiana

My dear Mrs. Ehrmann:

I expect the letter I wrote you advising that Mr. Manship would serve on the committee reached you about the time you wrote to me.

I will be very glad indeed to follow out your suggestions and write to the members of the committee named in your letter but I do think it would be best to wait until all the members of the committee are definitely named so that we may be able to advise the individual members who the complete committee group is.

Very truly yours,

LAW:BS

Director

April 28, 1941

Mrs. Bess V. Ehrmann
Rockport, Ind.

Dear Mrs. Ehrmann:

You have probably been advised that Mr. Borglum who is on our Lincoln Memorial Stamp Committee passed away some time ago.

Do you not think it would be wise to secure some outstanding photographer inasmuch as we have one sculptor and one portrait artist on the commission.

It seems to me if there is some one in America who is an outstanding authority on photographic art, it might strengthen the committee by having such a one.

You might be interested to know that I made the acquaintance of the gentleman at Washington in charge of postage stamps and hope to cultivate it to some extent as I think possibly his word is the last word on the issues of new memorials. I will let you know what success I have with respect to soliciting his interest from time to time.

Very truly yours,

LAW:EB

Director

Rockport, Indiana.
May 3" 1941

Dr. Louis A. Warren
Fort Wayne
Indiana.

My dear Dr. Warren: I was pleased to receive your letter and interested in all you had to say concerning our Nancy Hanks Lincoln stamp and the death of one of our judges, Mr. Borglum.

Mr. Bennett, Miss Wright and I had been talking about some one to take his place, and the decision was made to ask his son to act as a judge.

Mr. Bennett has been very ill and he and Miss Wright requested me to write a letter to the son. My mother-in-law had a fall and broke her hip and I have been so busy that the letter was not written.

Your suggestion of some outstanding photographer being a judge, is most timely and we will take your advice. Have you such a person in mind?

Is Mr. Frederick Meerose a photographer

or just a collector? I met him here last year and enjoyed a talk which concerned his collection of Lincoln portraits. He was with the group of people from Lincoln Memorial University. One member of the party, a Mr. Bullard of Boston, refused to sign our petition for the stamp issue.

I may be wrong, but I had the impression from several remarks made to me, by members of the group, that they believed that old story about Nancy Hanks Lincoln being an unworthy woman. They doubted whether it was wise to honor her etc. I suppose Mr. Bullard holds that erroneous thought.

We appreciate your assistance and your advice. Please tell us your choice for this place on the committee.

Our petitions are coming in from time to time with many signers, over 500,000 now.

There have been about twenty five portraits sent in by different artists and others promised.

I hope you cultivate the acquaintance of the gentleman in Washington. Such contacts are sure to help our cause.

Since Mr. Bennett has been unable to do any work, Miss Wright ill, too, and my hands so full here at home, we have been unable to arrange a Mother's Day program. I have written a short article about the stamp issue, and our plans, for the Indianapolis Star. It should be in next Sunday's issue. Look for it.

I wish you would write an article, for one of the magazines, about the stamp, because we do need publicity. We want people every where to know that Indiana citizens wish to honor the forgotten mother of our greatest American citizen.

Best regards to all your family.

Sincerely

Bess V. Ehrmann

7

Rockport, Indiana
May 25th 1941

My dear Dr. Warren:

I wish to thank you and to express deep appreciation for the book which Mr. Stultz brought to me.

I have been reading it and have been duply interested in it. Certainly any one who studied it conscientiously in pioneer days would have had an excellent background of good literature.

Please tell me what Lincoln said about this book, also when and where he mentioned it. I wish to put such information on a card when we display the book in the village.

As I was once a student of Dramatic Art I have been especially interested in these directions in the book for speakers. No wonder that Lincoln became a good orator because these lessons

on Emphasis, Tones, Pronunciation, Pitch etc. etc. are just as correct today as they were in 1826, when the book was published.

It was a pleasure to meet Mr. Stultz and I hope that he may arrange to come down here with you when you come again.

He told me that this year of 1941 is the 125th Anniversary of the Lincoln coming to Indiana and we must have something special to mark the event.

Our society is to meet at Dale next Sunday and I shall present the matter then. I know our people will be delighted to have you come and address them. We all feel honored in having your help, advice and interest. I have not yet had your reply about another judge for our committee. Who should it be?

Again I thank you for the book.

Sincerely,

Bess V. Ehrmann

June 13, 1941

Mrs. Bess V. Ehrmann
Rockport, Indiana

Dear Mrs. Ehrmann:

The letter with respect to Murrays English Reader leads me to say that the information comes from William Herndon's Volume I, Page 37, and I quote a sentence: "Mr. Lincoln told me in later years Murrays English Reader was the best book ever put into the hands of an American youth."

You will also find attached to this letter photostat copy of an early number of Lincoln Lore which goes into some detail about Murrays English Reader.

With respect to the member of the commission who replaced Mr. Borglun, I would suggest Mr. Frederick H. Meserve, the best known and probably the best informed collector of Lincoln pictures in America. His address is 240 Church Street, New York. I believe he would make an ideal member of the committee, and I don't know but what you had an opportunity to meet him when he was passing through Southern Indiana last summer. I am sure this selection would be received very well every where.

Very truly yours,

LAW:BST

Director

June 12, 1941

Mrs. Rose V. Emmons
Rockport, Indiana

Dear Mrs. Emmons:

The letter with regard to Harvey's English Reader leads me to say that the information comes from William Kendall's Volume I, Page 37, and I quote a sentence: "Mr. Lincoln told me in May of 1860 Harvey's English Reader was the book from which he got into the hands of an American youth."

You will also find extended in this letter photostat copy of an early number of Lincoln's Law which gives more detail about Harvey's English Reader.

With regard to the author of the contribution who replaced Mr. Durgin, I would suggest Mr. Frederick H. Meserve, the best known and probably the best informed collector of Lincoln pictures in America. His address is 580 Church Street, New York. I believe he would make an ideal member of the committee, but I don't know but what you had an opportunity to meet him when he was passing through Southern Indiana last summer. I am sure this collection would be received very well everywhere.

Very truly yours,

LAM:DET

Director

Mrs. Calder Ehrmann
119 South 5th Street
Rockport, Indiana

September 14" 1942

My dear Dr. Warren: Thank you for your letter. You have the committee of judges listed correctly except one, Gertrude Lane. She died a few months ago and we did not fill her place as there were six without her.

They now are—

1 Dr. Loring A. Warren, Chairman
2. Paul Angle
3. Howard C. Chinaty
4. Paul Manship
5. Frederick H. Meserve
6. Carl Sandburg.

We shall get in touch with our senators at once and will let you know their reactions.

Sincerely
Rosa V. Ehrmann

(Over)

If you desire any information on our Spencer County Historical Society —

Founded 1915.

Has carried on many worth while activities.

Staged Centennial Pageant with 2000 actors in 1916

Staged 3 Lincoln pageants here on spot where Lincoln left on 1st flat-boat trip.

Erected large stone and bronze marker at flat-boat site.

Erected markers at many historic sites in Spencer County, among them the first marker at cabin site in park. This was done in 1817 with County Commissioners as co-sponsors.

Held memorial services each year for 12 years at grave of Nancy Hanks Lincoln.

Mrs. Calder Ehrmann
119 South 5th Street
Rockport, Indiana

Have collected and preserved many biographies of Spencer County pioneers.

Sponsored building of Lincoln Pioneer Village and maintain it jointly with Rockport City Council.

Now sponsor the Nancy Hanks Lincoln Stamp project.

Spencer County Historical Society Seeks Stamp To Honor Nancy Lincoln, Mother's Day, 194

Nobody knows what the mother of Abraham Lincoln looked like. There are no pictures of America's most famous mother in historical archives. So citizens of southern Indiana, where Lincoln spent the 14 formative years of his life, have banded together to sponsor a contest for artists to give their conception of how Nancy Hanks Lincoln, Lincoln's mother, might have appeared. The impressions are to be submitted to the Post Office Department as the basis for the possible issuance of a stamp commemorating the Emancipator's mother. Shown here are seven of the entries in the competition. Top row, left to right: Pen-and-ink sketch by Elmer Cox; pen-and-ink sketch by Martha Rudisell; painting by Mary Myrtle Posey; pen and ink drawing by Mabel Warden. Bottom row: Water color by George H. Honig; pen-and-ink sketch by Robert Price; pen and ink portrait by Ruth Ann Roby.

By BESS V. EHRMANN.

Rockport, Ind., May 10.—What did Abraham Lincoln's mother look like?

Nobody knows, for no pictures of the nation's most famous mother ever have been found.

But a search for a picture which will portray the known characteristics of Nancy Hanks Lincoln now is under way with a view to creating a portrait which can be used as the basis for a commemorative United States stamp.

In southern Indiana, where Abraham Lincoln spent 14 years of his youth, two organizations—numbering many descendants of Lincoln's neighbors and friends—have kept alive the Indiana connections of Nancy Hanks Lincoln and her son. They are the Boonville Press Club and the Spencer County Historical Society.

Society Seeks Stamp.

Members of the historical society have worked 25 years to bring attention to the Indiana Lincoln country by pageantry, plays, marking Lincoln shrines, writing of stories concerning Lincoln's Indiana years (1816 to 1830) and the building of a Lincoln pioneer village. They now are sponsoring a movement to ask the government to issue a postage stamp memorializing Nancy Hanks Lincoln. They are asking that the stamp be ready for circulation on Mother's day in 1943, 125 years after her death and burial in Spencer county.

Hilbert Bennett of Rockport is chairman of the campaign.

Nancy Hanks Lincoln is known today only by those qualities which she imparted to her son. The Spencer County Historical Society is calling on artists, sculptors and painters everywhere to submit likenesses of Nancy Hanks Lincoln as they picture her.

The society's petition to the government for a stamp now bears 500,000 signatures. It will be presented eventually to the Post Office Department. Indorsements have come from nearly every state and from many Governors, senators and distinguished persons throughout the country.

25 Portraits Submitted.

Twenty-five portraits already have been sent to the society by various artists and many others have been promised. These oil paintings, water colors, pen-and-ink sketches and charcoal drawings form an unusual collection which the society intends to exhibit in many cities.

Judges named to choose the best representative for the stamp issue include Dr. Louis A. Warren, Fort Wayne, Lincoln biographer and lecturer, chairman; Paul Manship, New York sculptor; Carl Sandberg, Lincoln biographer; Howard Chandler Christy, New York portrait painter; Gertrude Lane, editor of a woman's magazine, New York, and Paul Angle, Springfield (Ill.) writer and Lincoln historian.

The portrait they select will be submitted to the postmaster general. With it will go the petition which the historical society expects to contain 1,000,000 signers.

5/10/40

Historical Society Seeks Imaginary Portrait of Nancy Hanks Lincoln

Imaginary portrait of Nancy Hanks Lincoln, mother of Abraham Lincoln, prepared by George H. Honig, Rockport sculptor and historian.

Rockport, Ind., May 25.—(Special)—An imaginary portrait of Nancy Hanks Lincoln, mother of Abraham Lincoln, is sought by the Spencer County Historical Society for possible use on a postage stamp honoring the Civil War President's mother.

No known picture of Mrs. Lincoln exists and the historical society has asked artists to submit their conception of the noted mother. A committee of judges, to be selected from nominations made by leading newspapers and magazines, will choose the picture believed most representative of Mrs. Lincoln.

The historical society also is sponsoring the movement to have a commemorative stamp issued by the Post Office Department. Hilbert Bennett of Rockport, society treasurer, reported that petitions bearing the names of 50,000 persons in every state in the Union request the issuance of the stamp.

Among portraits of Lincoln's mother is one prepared by George H. Honig of Rockport, artist, sculptor and student of Lincoln history. Drawn in stamp form, his conception of Nancy Hanks Lincoln's portrait is surrounded by a design which includes the outline of the state, the state flower, the zinnia; the state tree, the tulip tree; the Indiana bird, the cardinal; the state seal, the state flag; the Spencer county symbol, the wild carrier pigeon, and designation of the site of the Lincoln log cabin and the spot where Mrs. Lincoln is buried.

THE INDIANAPOLIS SUNDAY STAR, MAY 26, 1940.

Committee Named To Select Design for Lincoln Stamp

Evansville Courier

Project Honoring Emancipator's Mother Sponsored by Spencer County Society

2-14-41

ROCKPORT, Feb. 13.—(Special) Dr. Louis A. Warren, director of the Lincoln Foundation at Ft. Wayne, has been selected chairman of the committee to select the design for the Nancy Hanks Lincoln stamp to be issued for Mother's day in 1943. The stamp is being sponsored by the Spencer County Historical society.

Other members of the committee are: Howard Chandler Christy, portrait painter of New York City; Gutzon Borglum, sculptor of Mt. Rushmore, S. D.; Paul Manship, sculptor of New York City; Gertrude Lane, editor of the Woman's Home Companion; Carl Sandburg, Lincoln biographer, and Paul Angle, Lincoln librarian at Springfield, Ill.

The stamp design will be the artist's conception of the Civil war president's mother as no picture of her is known to be in existence. She died in 1818 and was buried on the Lincoln farm which is now included in the Nancy Hanks Lincoln park at Lincoln City.

The committee who directed the movement to have the stamp issued is composed of Hilbert Bennett, chairman; Miss Laura Mercy Wright, Mrs. Elizabeth Gentry, Carl Engelbrecht, Mrs. Bess V. Ehrmann and Mrs. Mina Cook, all of Rockport.

More than 60,000 persons signed the petition for the stamp, which was signed by the governor of practically every state in the United States and by all the representatives and senators from Indiana in congress.

Twenty-four designs for the stamp have been submitted, some coming from New York City, and the historical society plans to have an exhibit of them soon.

Design for Nancy Hanks Lincoln stamp submitted by Mrs. Bess Keller of Rockport.

2/24/41

Lincoln's Mother Stamp Is Sought

Rockport, Ind., Feb. 24. — (Special) — A rural school class in Macon county, Illinois, taught by Mrs. Florence White, has obtained more than 1,000 signers to the petition being nationally circulated asking for a Lincoln's mother 3-cent postage stamp.

"We have made the Nancy Hanks Lincoln Mother's day stamp a part of our Lincoln project study," the teacher wrote.

Writing for more petitions to be circulated at other Illinois schools, she explained, "We broadcast to the public for signers." Robert Peyoll, a pupil, invited "a car full of Spencer County (Indiana) Historical Society members to come and see the points of Lincoln interest in our state."

"Exchange of historical information between school children of the Indiana Lincoln country and school children anywhere outside the state is to be extended to every county in Illinois where Lincoln lived or visited," according to Mrs. Bess V. Ehrmann, Indiana Lincoln historian of Rockport.

The Poor Richard Press

Printers Publishers Booksellers

451 North Western Avenue Phone Haymarket 7626

Chicago

March 12th 1941

Dr. L. A. Warren
Lincoln National Life Foundation
Fort Wayne Indiana

Dear Mr. Warren:

I note by the papers that you are on a committee to design a NANCY HANKS LINCOLN Memorial Postage Stamp. Let me congratulate you and assure you that the project is in safe hands.

As you know, THE POOR RICHARD PRESS sponsors all types of Lincoln covers. I should like to put out a first day cover for the NANCY HANKS LINCOLN STAMP. Can you give me an inkling as to when it will be placed on first day sale and where?

It is necessary for me to put out my own publicity and any information you can give me on the above will be appreciated as I fear time is short.

Hoping to hear favorably from you, I wish to remain,

Very truly yours,

THE POOR RICHARD PRESS

Theodore S. Charrney

March 14, 1941

Mr. Theodore S. Charrney
The Poor Richard Press
451 North Western Avenue
Chicago, Illinois

Dear Mr. Charrney:

Dr. Warren is at present on his annual speaking itinerary and will not return until some time in April.

Your letter will be placed before him at that time.

Yours very truly,

Secretary to Dr. Warren.

Spencer Society Seeks Nancy Lincoln Stamp

Rockport, Ind., Feb. 11.—(Special)—The Spencer County Hostorical Society is sponsoring a movement for a Nancy Hanks Lincoln 3-cent postage stamp, to be issued for Mother's day, 1943.

Since no known portrait exists of the mother of Abraham Lincoln, artists may submit their own conceptions of her appearance for the stamp's design.

The stamp committee is composed of Miss Laura M. Wright, president; Mrs. Mina Cook, vice-president; Mrs. Lizzie Gentry, secretary; Hilbert Bennett, treasurer; Mrs. Bess V. Ehrmann, curator; Carl Englebracht, county school superintendent, and Mrs. Bess Wolfork.

Indianapolis Star
2/12/42

LINCOLN LORE

Bulletin of the Lincoln National Life Foundation - - - - - Dr. Louis A. Warren, Editor
Published each week by The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company, Fort Wayne, Indiana

Number 704 FORT WAYNE, INDIANA October 5, 1942

MEMORIAL STAMP FOR MOTHER'S DAY

Nancy Hanks Lincoln died on October 5, 1818 and next year on this day, the one hundred and twenty-fifth anniversary of her death will be commemorated. On the Mother's Day, preliminary to this anniversary, it is hoped that the United States Government will issue a postage stamp memorializing the mother of Lincoln.

The Sponsoring Group

The effort to secure the memorial stamp is being sponsored by the Spencer County Historical Society under the direction of the following members of the stamp committee: Hilbert Bennett, chairman, Miss Laura Mercy Wright, Mrs. Elizabeth Gentry, Carl Englebrecht, Mrs. Bess V. Ehrmann and Mrs. Mina Cook. This committee has already circulated petitions for the stamp. The lists contain the signatures of about a half a million people.

If a favorable reaction by the postal authorities is assured, recommendations for the design of the memorial stamp will be submitted by a committee composed of Louis A. Warren, director of Lincoln National Life Foundation, chairman; Paul Angle, librarian of Illinois State Historical Society; Howard Chandler Christy, portrait artist; Paul Manship, sculptor; Frederick H. Meserve, authority on Lincoln photographs; and Carl Sandburg, Lincoln author. Twenty-four designs for the contemplated stamp have already been submitted.

It must be recognized that very little biographical data is available about Lincoln's mother. Some of the most important vital statistics about her are not recorded. Confusion exists as to just how she looked, also there is some difference of opinion as to what innate tendencies she may have passed on to her illustrious son. This one fact is certain, however, that she was the first and faithful wife of Thomas Lincoln and she bore him three children. One of the three became the most beloved character in American history.

The Birth Date of Lincoln's Mother

One of the facts we would like to know about Lincoln's mother, especially if a stamp is to be issued in her honor, is the date of her birth. The day of her marriage and the day of her death are positively established, but any date which is associated with her birth is purely traditional and this goes for the year as well as the month and the day when she was born.

The first approach to the date of Lincoln's mother's birth which we have been able to discover in print is in Lamon's *Lincoln* [p. 10] in which it is stated that the age of Nancy at the time of her marriage was "about twenty-three," placing the year of her birth about 1783. Herndon, whose manuscripts were used as a source for the Lamon book, stated in his three volume work, [vol. 1, p. 13] compiled from the same manuscripts he sold Lamon, that at the time of Nancy's marriage to Thomas Lincoln she was in her twenty-third year. This statement is undoubtedly responsible for the Lamon conclusion. Where did Herndon get his information? Possibly it was from John Hanks who stated in an interview which Herndon directed that "Thomas was older than his wife say five years." [*The Hidden Lincoln*, p. 345.]

Herndon published the statement made by the President himself that Thomas Lincoln "having reached his twenty-eighth year he married Nancy Hanks—mother of the present subject—in the year 1806." If Thomas had reached his twenty-eighth year actually he would be twenty-seven years old which would make the age of his wife, according to John Hanks, twenty-two at the time of her marriage in 1806, and the year of her birth would have been 1784. We doubt seriously that the President ever told Herndon the date of his mother's birth as apparently Lincoln himself did not know the date. In 1847 he entered the date of his mother's death in the family Bible, and if he had known the date of her birth probably he would have made a notation about it, or at least stated her age at time of death, as he did about his father later on when he entered in the old Bible some vital statistics.

The first mention of an actual birthday for Nancy Hanks is to be found in the book *Nancy Hanks* by Mrs. Hitchcock who stated that she was born on February 5, 1784 [p. 25]. Jenkins Lloyd Jones, who prepared copy for the biographical tablets placed on the walls of the Lincoln Memorial at Hodgensville, gave the birthday of Nancy Hanks as January 4, 1784. Mr. Jones was familiar with the work of Mrs. Hitchcock and was probably influenced to some extent by her information. If Mrs. Hitchcock were depending on some of the Joseph Hanks descendants for information about the age of Nancy Hanks, they gave her the birth date of Nancy, the daughter of Joseph who was the mother of Dennis Hanks, and who later married Levi Hall and not Nancy the mother of Lincoln. Mr. Jones was laboring under the same mistaken identity of the Nancy in question, so probably both dates January 4, and February 5, are spurious.

The only documentary approach we can make to the question of her birth date is through the Hardin County census which shows Nancy Hanks Lincoln to have been between twenty-six and forty-five years of age at the time the census was taken in 1810. This would indicate that Nancy could not have been born later than 1784 or she would have been listed as under twenty-six years of age. She may have been born in 1784 and the inscription on her tombstone which states she was thirty-five years old at the time of her death in 1818 may be right, regardless of the absence of any reliable source to confirm it.

Personal Appearances of Nancy Hanks Lincoln

Those having in mind the preparation of a design for a memorial stamp would like very much to know something about the personal appearance of Lincoln's mother. It is true we have no actual photograph of Nancy Hanks Lincoln as she died over twenty years before photography was invented, and no painting nor even a silhouette of her is available. Photographs are our best authorities as to how our forebears looked and memory would be of little avail in allowing us to become familiar with their appearance without the aid of visual helps.

There does not appear to be extant any dependable description of Mrs. Lincoln and no one who was really qualified to speak with authority as to how she looked has left us a verbal portrait of her. It appears that the few descriptions submitted have been greatly influenced by the personal appearances of Lincoln himself, with a tendency on the part of the Hankses to trace not only his mental endowments to their side of the house, but his physical characteristics as well.

Practically all biographers, who have tried to describe Lincoln's mother, have relied upon William Herndon's description of her. Herndon was dependent on John Hanks for the story of how she looked, when, in fact, although John gave a minute description of her, it is very evident that he never saw her in his whole life time. (*See Lincoln Kinsman No.* 43) It is doubtful if any satisfactory sketch of how she actually looked will ever be discovered.

Correction—In Lincoln Lore No. 693 the word "ruler" was used inadvertently instead of "president" as it appeared in the original source, *The New York Times*. Ed.

LAW OFFICES
COMMERCIAL TRUST BUILDING
15TH & MARKET STREETS

H. S. J. SICKEL
ATTORNEY-AT-LAW

PHILADELPHIA November 24, 1942

Dr. Louis A. Warren, Editor
Lincoln National Life Foundation
The Lincoln National Life Insurance Co.
Ft. Wayne, Indiana

Dear Mr. Warren:

Possibly you will recall me as the author of the book, "History of Thanksgiving & Proclamations", and with my enjoyment of the privilege of being on your mailing list for your weekly copies of "Lincoln Lore". These, I always read with interest. Your issue of October 5, 1942, interested me greatly since I am personally known to and by, and represent professionally, Miss Anna M. Jarvis, the world-wide known Founder of Mother's Day. The subject of the above mentioned article of October 5, 1942, was the movement to have made a U. S. postage stamp with the portrait of Nancy Hanks Lincoln, the mother of Abraham Lincoln, thereon engraved, to be issued on the next ensuing Mother's Day.

With this, may I have one-half dozen extra copies of your said issue of October 5, 1942. Thanking you in advance, I remain

Yours truly,

H. S. J. SICKEL

mc

For Lincoln Data

Ex-Governor of W. Va
John J. Cornwell
(1) B-O R.R Legal Dept
B-O. Bld. Baltimore

President W. Va State
Historical Society
c/o - W. Va State Librarian
The Capitol
(2) Charleston, W. Va

President W. Va
State University
(3) Morgantown
W. Va

President
W. Va State Bar assn
(4) c/o Atty General
Charleston, W Va

City Atty
Keyser W Va
(5) Nancy Hanks lived
near Keyser

City Atty.
Romney, W. Va

6

LAW OFFICES
COMMERCIAL TRUST BUILDING
15TH & MARKET STREETS

H. S. J. SICKEL
ATTORNEY-AT-LAW

PHILADELPHIA

November 28, 1942

Mr. Louis A. Warren, Editor
Lincoln Lore
c/o Lincoln National Life Insurance Co.
Fort Wayne, Ind.

Dear Mr. Warren:

Supplementing the letter I wrote you the other day with reference to "Lincoln Lore" of October 5--Memorial Stamp to be issued by the United States Government for Nancy Hanks Lincoln on next Mother's Day, may I venture to suggest the following persons, who, if you do not already know about them, may be able to give you some assistance or advice concerning the history of Abraham Lincoln and/or his mother, Nancy Hanks Lincoln, which will help you in your effort to bring about that which you are striving for. The five individuals are listed on the within memo.

Wishing you success, I remain

Yours truly,

H. S. J. SICKEL

mc

Stamp

December 2, 1942

Mr. H. S. J. Sickel
Commercial Trust Bldg.
15th & Market Sts.
Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Mr. Sickel:

Thank you very much for your interest in the Mother's Day Stamp which is anticipated but I feel we will be unable to secure very much help from the five people mentioned on your enclosure, who are under the disillusion Lincoln's mother was born in Mineral County, West Virginia.

We are quite familiar with the tradition having been invited several years ago by the Governor of West Virginia to confer with a commission appointed by him to establish the birth place of Nancy Hanks.

You will please find enclosed a copy of the Lincoln Kinsman which sets forth the view point which this foundation holds in respect to the maternal ancestry of Abraham Lincoln.

Very truly yours,

Director

LAW:CRS
L.A.Warren
Enc.

LAW OFFICES
COMMERCIAL TRUST BUILDING
15TH & MARKET STREETS

H. S. J. SICKEL
ATTORNEY-AT-LAW

PHILADELPHIA December 8, 1942

Dr. Louis A. Warren
P. O. Box 1110
Ft. Wayne, Indiana

Dear Dr. Warren:

With our mutual interest in Abraham Lincoln, and my regular reading of your "Lincoln Lore" issued weekly and sent me, which, by the way, I read with a great deal of entertainment, I was particularly pleased the other day to receive a printed pamphlet, entitled, "The Lincoln Kinsmen", which was devoted exclusively to the maternal myth lineage of Abraham Lincoln. I read this panphlet through carefully and studiously.

I not only have in my library the works, writings and papers of Abraham Lincoln, which is about a 12-volume edition, but I have many other books on Lincoln and Lincoln subjects. In addition thereto, I have the following: The three lives of Abraham Lincoln, by Herendon--Weik; Whipple; and Barton; also "The Paternity of Abraham Lincoln", by Barton and the "Lineage of Abraham Lincoln", by Wm. E. Barton. All these books I have carefully read and digested, and I also have in my possession, made by myself, a large chart which is the family tree of Abraham Lincoln, giving his line, paternally and maternally, back to two or three generations in England.

With my reading and study of Abraham Lincoln, I have had brought to my attention ~~for~~ reading and study all of the myths concerning his heritage; and I believe I also have the true, correct and authoritative family history or genealogy of Abraham Lincoln. My definite understanding and knowledge is that there is no question whatsoever as to Abraham Lincoln's legitimacy, and that all scandals referring to the same have long since been definitely exploded, discharged and dismissed because of the authoritative and definite formal information and records, concerning him, his

birth, and heritage, which have been found and recorded as a matter of authoritative history by Dr. Barton, who, in my judgment, has made himself the greatest authority on Abraham Lincoln. Of course, I may be mistaken in my opinion, but that's my thought and judgment, subject to correction.

With my reading and study however, I have had likewise proven to my satisfaction that the mother of Abraham Lincoln was Nancy Hanks, who, unfortunately, was an illegitimate daughter of her mother, Lucy Hanks, who was not married when Nancy was born; that Lucy Hanks, as was her sister, Nancy Hanks, were rather low characters, and very loose in their morals. As a matter of fact, Dr. Barton uncovered Court records where Lucy Hanks had been apprehended and prosecuted more than once for prostitution.

Irrespective of who may have been Nancy Hanks' father, I can well account for the mentality and the mental operations of Abraham Lincoln and the basis of the same. As a student of life and human nature, I know something of the subject of "blood stream", with the vitality thereof; and I know that the blood stream, with its qualities and virtues, can endure for generations; I also know that there can be temporary lapses in it, and it is easy for me to account for the qualities of the blood stream of Abraham Lincoln as it asserted or demonstrated itself when I consider his heritage. While Thomas Lincoln, the father of Abraham Lincoln, was definitely a shiftless individual yet he had character and he had ability, but as it often happens, he was one of those individuals that, while he never did anything wrong, he was either brain lazy or physically lazy to make anything out of himself. Yet, back of him is a long line of Lincolns; his direct line of ancestors, beginning with his father and going all the way back through the Lincolns, produced many men of ability in farming, business, manufacturing--iron, politics and other departments of life; all of whom were respectively successful. As to his mother's side, I can trace and prove that Nancy Hanks and her mother, Lucy, were the direct descendants of Richard Lee of Virginia; one of the Lees, a granddaughter or great-granddaughter of Richard Lee, I just forget which it is, but her name was Anne Lee, is the connecting link. She, or one of her daughters--I forget at this moment that point, married into the Hanks family; and

the son of Richard Lee, the direct ancestor of the said Anne Lee, married a descendant of the Rev. Brewster, one of the passengers of the Mayflower. With this genealogical background, Abraham Lincoln had plenty of quality and virtue in his blood stream, which manifested itself in, by, and through him, in life. The quality and character of this blood stream was revived and/or re-asserted itself in Abraham Lincoln--Truly he was a good blooded individual; the kind that develops into greatness.

With these thoughts and observations, I beg to remain

Truly yours,

mc

H. S. J. SICKEL

8

LAW OFFICES
COMMERCIAL TRUST BUILDING
15TH & MARKET STREETS

H. S. J. SICKEL
ATTORNEY-AT-LAW

PHILADELPHIA

December 11, 1942

Dr. Louis H. Warren
Lincoln National Life Foundation
c/o Lincoln National Life Ins. Co.
Fort Wayne, Ind.

Dear Dr. Warren:

Supplementing my recent correspondence with you concerning extra copies of your issue of "Lincoln Lore" for October 5th; a U. S. postage stamp in memory of Nancy Hanks Lincoln, and the issue of it on Mother's Day, 1943; while it may not make any difference, yet I feel it my legal and professional duty as the Attorney for Miss Anna M. Jarvis, the Founder of Mother's Day, to advise you that "Mother's Day", founded by Miss Jarvis many years ago is a well-established National and International institution, with an organization back of it; and that "Mother's Day" is not only registered, but copy-righted.

Re-assuring you of my best wishes and with my compliments of the coming Season, I remain

Yours truly,

H. S. J. SICKEL

mc

Mothers Day Stamp

December 15, 1942

Mr. H. S. J. Sickel
Commercial Trust Building
15th & Market Sts.
Philadelphia, Pa.

My dear Mr. Sickel:

Thank you very much for your letter of December 11 advising me of your legal and professional contact with Miss Harvis.

Lincoln Lore No. 704, duplicate copies of which you received, clearly specifies that the project is being sponsored by the Spencer County Historical Society.

I am not myself or any other members of the committee selected to pass on certain designs or pictures that might be appropriate

When the designs are ready to submit to our committee we will pass upon the designs and make our report to the Historical Society. The group I imagine will take the matter up with the government with respect to the issuing of the stamp. Our group is merely serving as a committee of Lincoln students to select a symbol which would be most appropriately used on a postage stamp if the Spencer County Historical Society is successful in having that project approved by the government.

Very truly yours,

LAW:WM

Director

SENT TO ANGLE
CHRISTY
MANSHIP
MESERVE
SANDBURG

April 30, 1943

Mr. Paul Angle
Ill. State Historical Library
Centennial Bldg.
Springfield, Ill.

My dear Mr. Angle:

You have probably already anticipated that the project to promote the issuing of a Nancy Lincoln Mother's Day stamp has been postponed until some more expedient time.

The officers of the Spencer County, Indiana Historical Society, sponsoring the effort, have asked me, as chairman of the judges group, to advise you of this action.

Very truly yours,

LAW:MP

Director

LINCOLN LORE

Bulletin of the Lincoln National Life Foundation - - - - - Dr. Louis A. Warren, Editor
Published each week by The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company, Fort Wayne, Indiana

Number 704 FORT WAYNE, INDIANA October 5, 1942

MEMORIAL STAMP FOR MOTHER'S DAY

Nancy Hanks Lincoln died on October 5, 1818 and next year on this day, the one hundred and twenty-fifth anniversary of her death will be commemorated. On the Mother's Day, preliminary to this anniversary, it is hoped that the United States Government will issue a postage stamp memorializing the mother of Lincoln.

The Sponsoring Group

The effort to secure the memorial stamp is being sponsored by the Spencer County Historical Society under the direction of the following members of the stamp committee: Hilbert Bennett, chairman, Miss Laura Mercy Wright, Mrs. Elizabeth Gentry, Carl Englebrecht, Mrs. Bess V. Ehrmann and Mrs. Mina Cook. This committee has already circulated petitions for the stamp. The lists contain the signatures of about a half a million people.

If a favorable reaction by the postal authorities is assured, recommendations for the design of the memorial stamp will be submitted by a committee composed of Louis A. Warren, director of Lincoln National Life Foundation, chairman; Paul Angle, librarian of Illinois State Historical Society; Howard Chandler Christy, portrait artist; Paul Manship, sculptor; Frederick H. Meserve, authority on Lincoln photographs; and Carl Sandburg, Lincoln author. Twenty-four designs for the contemplated stamp have already been submitted.

It must be recognized that very little biographical data is available about Lincoln's mother. Some of the most important vital statistics about her are not recorded. Confusion exists as to just how she looked, also there is some difference of opinion as to what innate tendencies she may have passed on to her illustrious son. This one fact is certain, however, that she was the first and faithful wife of Thomas Lincoln and she bore him three children. One of the three became the most beloved character in American history.

The Birth Date of Lincoln's Mother

One of the facts we would like to know about Lincoln's mother, especially if a stamp is to be issued in her honor, is the date of her birth. The day of her marriage and the day of her death are positively established, but any date which is associated with her birth is purely traditional and this goes for the year as well as the month and the day when she was born.

The first approach to the date of Lincoln's mother's birth which we have been able to discover in print is in Lamon's *Lincoln* [p. 10] in which it is stated that the age of Nancy at the time of her marriage was "about twenty-three," placing the year of her birth about 1783. Herndon, whose manuscripts were used as a source for the Lamon book, stated in his three volume work, [vol. 1, p. 13] compiled from the same manuscripts he sold Lamon, that at the time of Nancy's marriage to Thomas Lincoln she was in her twenty-third year. This statement is undoubtedly responsible for the Lamon conclusion. Where did Herndon get his information? Possibly it was from John Hanks who stated in an interview which Herndon directed that "Thomas was older than his wife say five years." [*The Hidden Lincoln*, p. 345.]

Herndon published the statement made by the President himself that Thomas Lincoln "having reached his twenty-eighth year he married Nancy Hanks—mother of the present subject—in the year 1806." If Thomas had reached his twenty-eighth year actually he would be twenty-seven years old which would make the age of his wife, according to John Hanks, twenty-two at the time of her marriage in 1806, and the year of her birth would have been 1784. We doubt seriously that the President ever told Herndon the date of his mother's birth as apparently Lincoln himself did not know the date. In 1847 he entered the date of his mother's death in the family Bible, and if he had known the date of her birth probably he would have made a notation about it, or at least stated her age at time of death, as he did about his father later on when he entered in the old Bible some vital statistics.

The first mention of an actual birthday for Nancy Hanks is to be found in the book *Nancy Hanks* by Mrs. Hitchcock who stated that she was born on February 5, 1784 [p. 25]. Jenkins Lloyd Jones, who prepared copy for the biographical tablets placed on the walls of the Lincoln Memorial at Hodgensville, gave the birthday of Nancy Hanks as January 4, 1784. Mr. Jones was familiar with the work of Mrs. Hitchcock and was probably influenced to some extent by her information. If Mrs. Hitchcock were depending on some of the Joseph Hanks descendants for information about the age of Nancy Hanks, they gave her the birth date of Nancy, the daughter of Joseph who was the mother of Dennis Hanks, and who later married Levi Hall and not Nancy the mother of Lincoln. Mr. Jones was laboring under the same mistaken identity of the Nancy in question, so probably both dates January 4, and February 5, are spurious.

The only documentary approach we can make to the question of her birth date is through the Hardin County census which shows Nancy Hanks Lincoln to have been between twenty-six and forty-five years of age at the time the census was taken in 1810. This would indicate that Nancy could not have been born later than 1784 or she would have been listed as under twenty-six years of age. She may have been born in 1784 and the inscription on her tombstone which states she was thirty-five years old at the time of her death in 1818 may be right, regardless of the absence of any reliable source to confirm it.

Personal Appearances of Nancy Hanks Lincoln

Those having in mind the preparation of a design for a memorial stamp would like very much to know something about the personal appearance of Lincoln's mother. It is true we have no actual photograph of Nancy Hanks Lincoln as she died over twenty years before photography was invented, and no painting nor even a silhouette of her is available. Photographs are our best authorities as to how our forebears looked and memory would be of little avail in allowing us to become familiar with their appearance without the aid of visual helps.

There does not appear to be extant any dependable description of Mrs. Lincoln and no one who was really qualified to speak with authority as to how she looked has left us a verbal portrait of her. It appears that the few descriptions submitted have been greatly influenced by the personal appearances of Lincoln himself, with a tendency on the part of the Hankses to trace not only his mental endowments to their side of the house, but his physical characteristics as well.

Practically all biographers, who have tried to describe Lincoln's mother, have relied upon William Herndon's description of her. Herndon was dependent on John Hanks for the story of how she looked, when, in fact, although John gave a minute description of her, it is very evident that he never saw her in his whole life time. (*See Lincoln Kinsman No.* 43) It is doubtful if any satisfactory sketch of how she actually looked will ever be discovered.

Correction—In Lincoln Lore No. 693 the word "ruler" was used inadvertently instead of "president" as it appeared in the original source, *The New York Times*. Ed.

C O P Y

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT

Third Assistant Postmaster General

Washington 25, D.C.

January 15, 1947

Mr. Hilbert Bennett
National Chairman Stamp Committee
Spencer County Historical Society
Rockport, Indiana

Dear Mr. Bennett:

Through the Hon. William E. Jenner, I have been advised of your continued interest in the idea of a postage stamp in honor of the Mother of President Lincoln.

Our records show that when this subject was originally brought to Departmental attention you were advised that it is not the policy to issue stamps in connection with the deaths of prominent individuals, which prevented favorable consideration of the subject for commemoration.

The Department has but few opportunities annually for the approval of commemorative stamps and is confronted at all times with an imposing list of applications of particular meritorious character. The program for the current year will be especially active by reason of participation in the Centenary International Philatelic Exhibition at New York next Spring when both a 3¢ commemorative and souvenir sheet will be released to mark the 100th anniversary of our first postage stamps. Prior commemorative commitments and special issues needed to meet service requirements fail to provide opportunity for the approval of a Nancy Hanks Lincoln stamp were the matter of an undesirable precedent not involved.

I regret that a more favorable reaction to your expressed wishes is not possible in the premises.

Sincerely yours,

Joseph J. Lawler (Signed)

Third Assistant Postmaster General.

January 21, 1947

Mr. Hilbert Bennett
Spencer County Historical Society
Rockport, Indiana

Dear Mr. Bennett:

We regret to advise you that Dr. Warren is now on an extensive speaking itinerary which will not bring him back to the office until the middle of March.

Just as soon as he returns I will call his attention to your letter.

Very truly yours,

Margaret Moellering
sec'y.

Copy

January 23, 1947

Hon. Joseph J. Lawler,
Third Asst. Postmaster General
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

Your letter of the 15th inst. relative to a special Nancy Hanks Lincoln Stamp, received.

We are grievously disappointed that the Department is holding so erroneous a notion of the central thought in our petition for the stamp. The meat in the cocoanut is "American Motherhood". I am much disappointed in the impression that we have evidently made relative to the subject matter. I am blaming myself for it.

At the rist of being tedious and tiresome, I desire to offer a brief analysis of the petition to support our contention that the chief thought is Motherhood of America in general, the Motherhood of Abraham Lincoln in particular.

In the first paragraph after addressing the authorities "We recognize the importance of Motherhood in America", we are there emphasizing motherhood, again "Mother gave birth", the emphasis is here on the mother. "Her distinguished son made a profound and immortal statement relative to that mother". Again the emphasis is on mother. "I owe to my angel mother". Again the emphasis is on mother. "Which statement will endure as long as motherhood endures". Motherhood is made prominent in that expression.

Now in the next sentence is the gist of the whole matter, the Central thought in the petition "That a measure of recognition be given that mother", meaning Nancy Hanks Lincoln. "And by so doing thus honor the entire Motherhood of America."

The next paragraph follows up the same thought except that it sets out our idea of the plan to follow to do such honor.

The third paragraph especially after the first sentence is merely suggestive; that we would like to have it ready for "Use and distribution in 1943". The next statement is intended to convey the thought that it would have been 12[illegible] years after the death and burial of Nancy Hanks Lincoln, not to commemorate her death, but to show that she had been buried in this obscure spot for 1[illegible] years without proper recognition. We are trying to impress the thought of the neglect and obscurity of such a sainted mother; that the time has been long and the recognition so little since her death. We desire to bring the thought to the attention of the public in this manner.

In view of the misunderstanding that that statement has left, and in view of the fact that it is now entirely ineffective and out-dated, the Spencer County Historical Society unanimously agrees that that statement may be stricken out of the petition.

Whether we ever have the Special Stamp issued, we are extremely anxious to correct the impression that our petition has left on the minds of those in authority.

I wrote the petition. I will admit frankly, that I did not do a good job of it. I do know the thought that we intended to convey and I am dead sure our intention was to stress the idea of motherhood and in view of the fact that this obscure mother had given to the world one of its foremost characters, and little recognition has been given her, it would be a fitting tribute to her and through her to the motherhood of America by issuing the proposed stamp.

The petition presented to the Department has very few signers on it. These petitions have been circulated in every State in the United States of America and its territories. We have thousands of signers. We have them from all States. We have Governors and Ex-Governors, Senators, and Ex-Senators, Representatives and Ex-Representatives, College Presidents, business men and citizens from all walks of life.

We were sounding out public sentiment. We hardly had a rebuff. The public was more enthusiastic about this petition than any public undertaking that I have ever had anything to do with.

I hope you will please reconsider our petition, give us the advantage of the doubt and construe its meaning as it was intended.

Thanking you for any favorable consideration given us and sincerely thanking you for your frank statement and information on the Department's attitude on our petition, I am

Yours very sincerely

_____

Chairman Stamp Committee

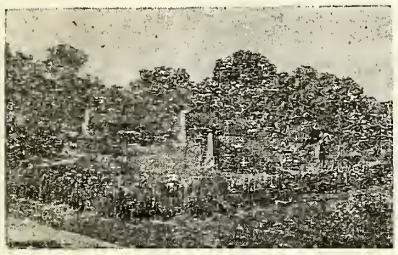
OFFICERS
LAURA MERCY WRIGHT, President
ELIZABETH GENTRY, Secretary
BESS V. EHRMANN, Curator
MRS. MINA COOK, Publicity Chairman

HILBERT BENNETT
National Chairman Stamp Committee

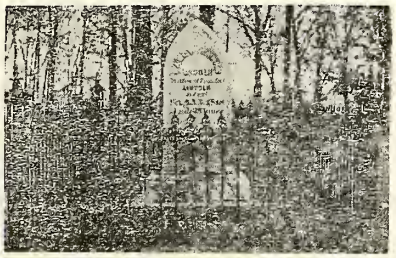
MEMBERS OF STAMP COMMITTEE
CARL J. ENGELBRECHT
OTIS I. BROONER
BESS WOOLFOLK
DAMON LLOYD
ALL OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

Spencer County Historical Society

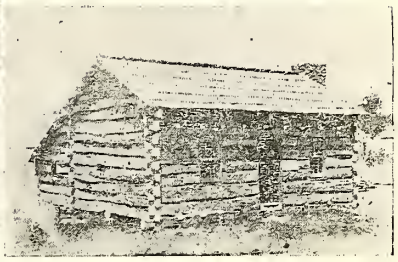
DOWN IN THE LINCOLN COUNTRY OF INDIANA



East End Lincoln Pioneer Village, Rockport



Grave of Nancy Hanks Lincoln, Spencer Co.



Home of the Lincolns in Spencer County

ROCKPORT, INDIANA
November 16, 1939

PETITION

To the President of the United States of America, the Postmaster General, and all others who are in authority to determine the matters and things herein petitioned:—

We, the undersigned petitioners and citizens of these United States of America, recognize the importance of motherhood in America, and realizing that a mother gave birth to one of America's most distinguished citizens, statesmen and Presidents, and that proper recognition has never been given that obscure mother, and recognizing that her distinguished son made a profound and immortal statement relative to that mother ("All that I am and all that I ever hope to be, I owe to my angel mother".) which statement will endure as ong as motherhood endures, we respectfully ask that a measure of recognition be given that mother by the people of these United States of America, and by so doing thus honor the entire motherhood of America.

As a fitting tribute to that sainted mother, we respectfully request and petition those in authority of the Government of these United States of America to print and authorize the use of a (3) cent postage stamp to embody the likeness of the face or head, or some representation, of Nancy Hanks Lincoln, the mother of the immortal Abraham Lincoln, in sufficient quantities to be distributed for a period of time and commonly used, when so desired, throughout these United States of America in mailing letters and other mail matter in the regular mail service of these United States of America.

That the size and technical details of the stamp be determined by those in authority. That the stamp be ready for distribution and use in 1943, the 125th anniversary of the death and burial of Nancy Hanks Lincoln in Spencer County, Indiana.

This petition is sponsored by the Spencer County Historical Society of Spencer County, Indiana.
Which petition we most respectfully submit to you and ask your most careful consideration of it.

At a recent meeting of the Spencer County Historical Society, it was decided to continue circulating the above petitions until after the war. It was thought advisable not to in any way embarrass the Administration with our petition because of the vast importance and pressing war activities. We respectfully request a continued interest in the request for the stamp, which we hope will be complete as soon after the war is over as is practicable.

Name of Petitioners | Post Office Address of Petitioners

(Mail all signed petitions to the SPENCER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, ROCKPORT, INDIANA, where they will be assembled and filed with those in authority at the proper time. Additional copies of this petition may be had at The Journal Office at 50c per 100.)

HILBERT BENNETT
612 Williamson Street
ROCKPORT, INDIANA

January 24,1947.

Dear Dr. Warren:-

Enclosed find the letter from the Third Assistant Post Master Postmaster General;Also my answer to the same.

I am asking Miss Moellering,your Secretary,to forward these letters ans a former one to you,if it not a violation of her instructions.

I am anxious for you to have these letters. I am also anxious to hear fromyou of these matters. As I said in a former letter, I shall very much appreciate any suggestions on them.

Looking forward to hearing from you before so long, I am

Sincerely yours,

Hilbert Bennett

Chairman,Stamp Committee.

Rockport, Indiana, January 27, 1947.

Miss Margaret Moellering, Secy,
Ft. Wayne, Ind.

Dear Miss Moellering:-

I have just been wondering if it would be possible to forward my letter of January 18, to which you referred in yours of Jan. 21, to Dr. Warren; also the enclosed letter addressed to him. I feel that it is important that he should have them as soon as possible.

You know your business much better than I. If it would be violation of your instructions, I would not ask it.

Thanking you for handling these matters as you think best, I am

Yours very respectfully,

Wilber Bennett

Chairman Stamp Committee.

January 29, 1947

Mr. Hilbert Bennett
Spencer County Historical Society
Rockport, Indiana

Dear Mr. Bennett:

I have forwarded your correspondence to Dr. Warren as requested and trust that you will hear from him very shortly.

Very truly yours,

Margaret Moellering
sec'y.

Spencer County Historical Society

DOWN IN THE LINCOLN COUNTRY OF INDIANA
Grave of Nancy Hanks Lincoln, Spencer Co.

ROCKPORT, INDIANA

January 18, 1947

Dr. Louis A. Warren,
c/o Lincoln Life Memorial Institute
Ft. Wayne, Indiana

Dear Sir:

When the war came on the Committee in Charge of the proposed Nancy Hanks Lincoln Special 3¢ postage stamp, suspended activities. We are now resuming our activities. We are still very anxious to bring that undertaking to a successful conclusion.

I have taken the matter up with our two United States Senators from Indiana. Senator Jenner has begun work on it. He has taken it up with the Postal Department. I have received from him the following letter dated January 8, 1947.

"Dear Mr. Bennett:-

Today this office contacted the Post Office Department concerning the proposed Nancy Hanks Lincoln Stamp. The matter has been taken up officially with Mr. R. E. Fellers, Superintendent, Division of Stamps, Post Office Department. He informs me he will write you about it in some detail.

Sincerely yours,

W. E. Jenner"

As you remember prior to the war we were instituting a contest among the artists of the world to make a probable portrait of Nancy Henks Lincoln as visioned by the individual artists. The choice of the artist's efforts was to be judged by a distinguished committee of which you were Chairman.

Because of the delay, which was unavoidable and the additional time that will be required to complete such a program and upon the advice of many, we have just about decided to abandon this part of the undertaking.

We also have decided not to try to get many more signers to our petitions. We want some Congreemen, Senators, Governors and College professors yet. We want those, for the bearing their names may have on the success of the project.

Inasmuch as we are abandoning the artist's contest, we are preparing ourselves to suggest some design for the stamp.

I am ready to suggest the following:

1st. A reproduction of M. Leone Bracker's representation of Nancy Hanks Lincoln and her son.

2nd. A reproduction of the small marker at the grave of Nancy Hanks Lincoln, properly designed with her name distinctly printed either on the marker or elsewhere on the stamp.

Spencer County Historical Society

DOWN IN THE LINCOLN COUNTRY OF INDIANA
Grave of Nancy Hanks Lincoln, Spencer Co.

ROCKPORT, INDIANA

These are merely my suggestions and not those of the Spencer County Historical Society. I shall be very glad to have any other suggestions that may be better that we may submit them to the proper authorities if and when we may have an opportunity. They may not want any suggestions. They wil probably have their own ideas concerning the subject matter.

We desire very much to again enlist your assistance in our efforts to bring the undertaking to a successful conclusion.

We would prefer to succeed without presenting our petition with all of the signers. We have thousands of signers. We have many very substantial signers including Governors, Senators, Representatives, business men, Ministers, College Presidents, etc. We have signers from every state in the United States.

The petitions are old, on all kinds of paper and they do not present a very attractive appearance.

I think we will have to proceed through our Senators and Representatives in Washington. I hope that we may have the support of the solid delegations from Indiana, Kentucky and Illinois. You may have contacts that will be of material help to us.

We shall certainly very greatly appreciate any help you can give us, or any suggestions that you may offer.

We are very grateful to you for the many kindnesses that you have extended to the Spencer County Historical Society, not only in behalf of our stamp movement, but in many other ways, which have been numerous.

With very kindest regards, I am

Sincerely your friend

Hilbert Bennett
Chairman Stamp Com.

HB:LW

OFFICERS
LAURA MERCY WRIGHT, President
ELIZABETH GENTRY, Secretary
BESS V. EHRMANN, Curator
MRS. MINA COOK, Publicity Chairman

HILBERT BENNETT
National Chairman Stamp Committee

MEMBERS OF STAMP COMMITTEE
CARL J. ENGELBRECHT
OTIS I. BROONER
BESS WOOLFOLK
DAMON LLOYD
ALL OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

Spencer County Historical Society

DOWN IN THE LINCOLN COUNTRY OF INDIANA

East End Lincoln Pioneer Village, Rockport

Grave of Nancy Hanks Lincoln, Spencer Co.

Home of the Lincolns in Spencer County

ROCKPORT, INDIANA

PETITION

November 16, 1939

To the President of the United States of America, the Postmaster General, and all others who are in authority to determine the matters and things herein petitioned:—

We, the undersigned petitioners and citizens of these United States of America, recognize the importance of motherhood in America, and realizing that a mother gave birth to one of America's most distinguished citizens, statesmen and Presidents, and that proper recognition has never been given that obscure mother, and recognizing that her distinguished son made a profound and immortal statement relative to that mother ("All that I am and all that I ever hope to be, I owe to my angel mother".) which statement will endure as ong as motherhood endures. we respectfully ask that a measure of recognition be given that mother by the people of these United States of America, and by so doing thus honor the entire motherhood of America.

As a fitting tribute to that sainted mother, we respectfully request and petition those in authority of the Government of these United States of America to print and authorize the use of a (3) cent postage stamp to embody the likeness of the face or head, or some representation, of Nancy Hanks Lincoln, the mother of the immortal Abraham Lincoln, in sufficient quantities to be distributed for a period of time and commonly used, when so desired, throughout these United States of America in mailing letters and other mail matter in the regular mail service of these United States of America.

That the size and technical details of the stamp be determined by those in authority. That the stamp be ready for distribution and use in 1943, the 125th anniversary of the death and burial of Nancy Hanks Lincoln in Spencer County, Indiana.

This petition is sponsored by the Spencer County Historical Society of Spencer County, Indiana.
Which petition we most respectfully submit to you and ask your most careful consideration of it.

Rockport, Indiana, June 16, 1943.

At a meeting of the Spencer County Historical Society held at Rockport, Indiana, June 16, 1943, by the unanimous consent of all members present it was decided to defer presenting our petition for the Nancy Hanks Lincoln stamp until after the war. It was determined to support the war efforts whole heartedly. We desire to continue the circulation of the petitions. We respectfully request a continued interest in the undertaking, which we hope will be completed as soon after the war is over as is practicable.

Name of Petitioners | Post Office Address of Petitioners

(Mail all signed petitions to the SPENCER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, ROCKPORT, INDIANA, where they will be assembled and filed with those in authority at the proper time. Additional copies of this petition may be had at The Journal Office at 50c per 100). Add extra sheets of paper to this petition for additional names.

Nancy Lucille Harris

5220 North Meridian Street
Indianapolis Indiana

January 27, 1949.

Dr. Louis A. Warren, Director,
The Lincoln National Life Foundation,
Fort Wayne, Indiana.

My dear Doctor Warren:

On Tuesday, when I read in the Indianapolis Star of the bill filed in the House of Representatives by Congressman Robert Hale of Maine to "authorize the issuance of a commemorative 3-cent stamp honoring Indiana's famous novelist, Booth Tarkington", I thought again

with Doctor Gregor. I visited your collection of Lincoln souvenirs and admired the meticulous files you kept. I recall the roses that were in a case; I believe they had been placed on Lincoln's coffin while his body lay in state in Indianapolis; wasn't it your mother who placed them there?

I tried in 1941 to interest Dr. Coleman in a celebration of the 125th anniversary of Indiana's statehood and the coming of the Lincoln family to Indiana! I did get several programs over the state in the Federation of Music Clubs. In the Lincoln Country, the place cards of the luncheon were Lincoln cabins!

of a bit of correspondence I had in December when I suggested a revival of interest in such a stamp for the mother of Lincoln!

Thank you for your answer of December tenth with the enclosure of a Lincoln Lore bulletin, October 5, 1942. Yes, I knew of the effort to secure this stamp. In fact, I have a tinted copy of the design submitted by George Honig of Rockport whose wife was a student of piano in Vienna while I was there in pre-World War I days! What impressed me about his design was the same outline of features as her son.

Several years ago when the Indiana State Medical Association met in Fort Wayne, I was there

I read "Singin' Yankees" last fall especially to get Lincoln's reaction to the "singing Hutchinsons" who sang at some of the camps of the Union army! I was told that the President "invited" them to sing. My informer was misinformed!

My letter grows too long for a busy executive!

So, again my "thank you" for your letter and its enclosure in early December! I might have thanked you in person at the reception when Judge Shake was the speaker, but I did not wish to interrupt your conversation with others!

Very sincerely yours,

Gertrude D. Gregor.
(Mrs. Frank W.)

January 28, 1949

Mrs. Frank W. Gregor
5220 North Meridian St.
Indianapolis, Indiana

Dear Mrs. Gregor:

Your letter has arrived following Dr. Warren's departure from his office on a two months speaking itinerary.

I am sure he will be pleased to receive your most interesting letter and I will bring it to his attention upon his return.

The rose encased in glass to which you refer was placed on Lincoln's casket as it passed through Indianapolis by Mrs. Hall, the mother of Arthur F. Hall, the first president of our Lincoln National Life Insurance Company. Both Mrs. Hall and her son were great admirers of Lincoln.

Very truly yours,

mm

Secretary to Dr. Warren

NANCY HANKS LINCOLN STAMP.

THE EFFORTS of the Spencer County Historical Society to have a Nancy Hanks Lincoln stamp numbered among the commemorative issues being put out by the Post Office Department will be very generally indorsed. U. S. Lindsey, publisher of the Rockport Journal, has sent petitions to people in all parts of the country and asked co-operation in getting signatures. Those are reported as coming in from all states and in large numbers. The sentiment in support of honoring the memory of Lincoln's mother is general in every community.

There is, of course, no likeness of Nancy Hanks Lincoln in existence. She died many years before even the first of the old daguerreotype or the tintypes had been made. There were no artists to paint portraits in the wilderness of her time. And if there had been, none would have known the part her memory will play in the history of the nation. If a Nancy Hanks Lincoln stamp is issued, the portrait will have to be the idealization of some artist, or group of artists.

It is immaterial that the picture on the stamp may not be a likeness of her. The pictures on some of the other stamps undoubtedly give inadequate ideas of the appearance of the subjects. The really important fact is that the face on the stamp is presented to do honor to the memory of Abraham Lincoln's mother. Precedent calls for a portrait in such cases, but it is not essential. A stamp bearing only her name would be better than no stamp at all in the series.

Ind Sunday Star

LINCOLN'S MOTHER STAMP.

To the Editor of The Indianapolis Star:

Amen and again amen to your recent editorial voicing protest against a governmental memorial stamp to bear an imaginary picture of Nancy Hanks Lincoln, revered mother of the "Great Emancipator." With all due respect to the persons agitating this move, I think it downright absurd.

Lincoln has always been a shining light of great Americans to me and his tribute to the influence of his mother has always touched me, but it was not face or form that he referred to. It was that celestial inner light that bespoke a great soul that made that indelible impression on little Abe, who was to become a colossal figure of destiny, which became the guiding light throughout his life.

Even the most famous artist could not conceive a true likeness of that pioneer mother any more than he could rival a sunrise or sunset. It woudl be a false conception with divers effects on divers minds.

I do think it would be a wonderful thing to have a memorial stamp sacred to the memory of this immortal mother, but it should not be a makeshift likeness.

Why not have a stamp engraved with the name, "Nancy Hanks Lincoln, mother of the Great American," or a picture of the grave which centers the shrine in Lincoln state park, inscribed with the name of Nancy Hanks Lincoln?

MRS. HARRY E. ASKEW.

President Lawrence County Historical Society, Bedford, Ind.

Lincoln Mother Stamp Delayed

Rockport, Ind., Feb. 20.—(Special)—The Spencer County Historical Society's proposal for a 3-cent Mothers' day postage stamp bearing a likeness of Nancy Hanks Lincoln, mother of President Lincoln has been denied by the postmaster general until after the war. The principal reason given by the Post Office Department is that the government is committed to a series of war stamps to promote public morale.

The Nancy Hanks Lincoln issue would intrude upon this series at a time when commemorative stamps are being discouraged because of labor and allocation of the Post Office Department's services toward winning the war, said Hilbert Bennett, national chairman of the historical society's Lincoln stamp committee. "Nor are commemorative stamps profitable just now," he said.

"Doesn't Mean Abandonment."

Deferment of the stamp should not mean abandonment of the plan, Postmaster General Walker suggested, but ruled against the issuance of the stamp on some future Mother's day. A design for that occasion has been established, the local committee was informed. Movement of the stamp began in 1939.

Mr. Bennett said that more than 500,000 signatures to a petition requesting the bit of postage and 35 artist's conceptions of the mother have been received by the committee, headed by Dr. Louis A. Warren, Fort Wayne, to select an authentic likeness of the emancipator's mother.

"The pictures will be kept and artists encouraged to submit additional concepts of the Civil War President's mother," Mr. Bennett said.

Every Governor of a state in the United States is a signer of the petitions for the Lincoln's mother postage stamp, Mr. Bennett said.

'People Seem to Like It,' Reply on WhistlerStamp

Postoffice Meets Artists' Attack by Citing Day's Capital Sales

WASHINGTON, May 5 (AP).—"The people seem to like it," was the Postoffice Department's answer today to artists' criticism of the new Mother's Day stamp issue.

"The first day's sale here in Washington was about one million and a third," said W. W. Howes, Acting Postmaster General in the absence of James A. Farley. "We think it's a very fine stamp."

The American Professional League of Artists had telegraphed a protest to Mr. Farley yesterday against "mutilation" of Whistler's portrait of his mother in its reproduction on the stamp. The artists were especially indignant that a "10-cent vase of flowers" had been added in the lower left-hand corner; nor were they keen about having the background of the original left out and the woman's feet cut off.

President Roosevelt had suggested the use of the Whistler classic.